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GMA appoints Court of Appeals Justice Arturo Brion labor secretary

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Hundreds of readers write to PDI: Father knows best and other lessons learned

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US unprepared for major emergency, says Homeland security report

SPORTS / A36
Argentina, Netherlands sail into World Cup second round

It wasn't easy for Rizal to be a national hero

By Dr. Pablo S. Trillana III
Contributor

(The author is a deputy grand knight of the Order of the Knights of Rizal.)

TOMORROW IS THE 145TH BIRTH anniversary of our national hero, Dr. Jose Rizal. Many Filipinos regard Rizal as a male Diarna or a demi-god. They seem to think that Rizal was

TURN TO PAGE A2

PHILIPPINE DAILY
INQUIRER Sunday
BALANCED NEWS, FEARLESS VIEWS

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Paul McCartney at 64: Will you still need me?

BEATLE JAMES PAUL McCartney turns 64 today—just like the song he wrote and later recorded with John, George and Ringo, almost four decades ago.

Now what?

When McCartney was

PHOTO, A2

GMA war endgame vs NPA

PHOTO BY ERNEST SOTTO PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

MT. BULUSAN STILL RESTLESS
Accompanied by Sorsogon Gov. Raul Lee at Barangay Binarasan, Juban, Sorsogon, President Arroyo orders the immediate setting up of evacuation sites beyond the six-kilometer danger zone. She also received a briefing from Phivolcs experts and inspected disaster preparations which began three weeks ago when the volcano first showed signs of activity. (Story on Page A2)

'Oplan Bantay Laya to deliver final blow'

By Fe Zamora

ONE MILITARY OFFICIAL CALLS IT THE "end-game strategy," geared towards crushing all rebel groups and paving the way for national development before President Macapagal-Arroyo's term ends in 2010.

The lines of attack are three: A legal offensive against communist chief Jose Ma. Sison and a military offensive against the New People's Army.

Officially called the Internal Security Operations ISO) Oplan Bantay Laya, it serves as Mr Arroyo's master plan for delivering the final blow to a 37-year insurgency that no president from Ferdinand Marcos to Corazon Aquino, Fidel Ramos and Joseph Estrada was able to tame.

It is the fourth counter-insurgency master plan adopted by the government in 25 years.

"This is it. If this won't work, I don't know what else would," a key security official and one of the key implementers of Bantay Laya told the Inquirer.

"The legal offensive on Sison and the other communist leaders, the military campaign and the coming economic, socio-political components, all these would fall under the ISO Bantay Laya," the official explained.

Echoing this view, one military official evaded a briefing on Bantay Laya with this statement: "We have been in this game for decades. Perhaps it is time to put into play an endgame strategy that will terminate this lingering problem."

Bantay Laya would tap practically all government agencies, including diplomatic officers, indicating that the counterinsurgency campaign would be waged even in foreign countries, where known Filipino insurgents, including Sison, had sought asylum.

Adopted in 2002 and originally intended as a 5-year program, Bantay Laya has been described in military documents as a "holistic approach" to fighting insurgency, using both civilian and military agencies to promote good governance and public confidence in government, alleviate poverty and provide the people with a secure environment conducive to development.

According to documents, Bantay Laya also aims to "directly ad-

OPOL A15

Palparan widens military drive in C. Luzon

By Tonette Orejas and Carmela Reyes
PDI Central Luzon Desk
and Delfin Mallari
PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

A DAY AFTER PRESIDENT MACAPAGAL-ARroyo declared she was pouring an extra P1 billion into the war against communist rebels, a senior Army general announced the expansion of military operations in Central Luzon, the decades-old hotbed of communist insurgency.

Maj. Gen. Jovito Palparan, commander of the 7th Infantry Division, yesterday pinpointed the towns of Lubao and Sasmuan in Pampanga as the targets of the widened military campaign.

The towns of Peñaranda and General Tinio and Gapan City in Nueva Ecija would be next, said Palparan, whose iron-hand methods in dealing with rebels and their sympathizers had earned him the label of "The Butcher."

Palparan confirmed he had expanded the scope of his campaign against the New People's Army a day after Mr Arroyo announced she was infusing more money into the military effort in order to eliminate the insurgency in "critical areas" within two years.

Palparan welcomed Mr Arroyo's call for victory over the rebels.

"It's a booster to our efforts. I'm determined in this campaign. This is good. We're going all-out now," Palparan told the Inquirer.

Another anti-insurgency fighter, Lt. Gen.

PALPARAN A10

286 new PMA cadets honor their fathers

By Vincent Cabreza
PDI Northern Luzon Bureau

FORT DEL PILAR, BAGUIO City—The Philippine Military Academy is an unlikely venue for the annual Father's Day celebration, but officers, parents and 286 incoming students made it the sentimental theme for yesterday's incorporation of PMA Class 2010 into the corps of cadets.

The theme rang true for T/Sgt. Pepe Ventura, who watched his 17-year-old daughter, Rayna, become an official PMA cadet.

"It's the best Father's Day gift," Ventura told the Inquirer after the ceremony as Rayna approached him for a kiss.

Both Lt. Gen. Antonio Bonoto II, Armed Forces of the Philippines vice chief of staff, and Lt. Gen. Leopoldo Maligalig, PMA superintendent, mentioned the special day in their speeches to welcome the new batch of fourth-class cadets.

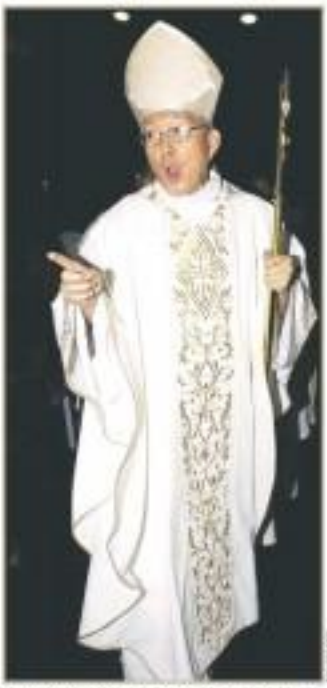
Romero reminded them that their fathers sitting in the PMA grandstand would "remember the day became [of] Father's Day."

Indeed, fathers applauding their children were a common sight at yesterday's ceremony. One said he had come all the way from Cagayan de Oro City to witness his son achieve something he never did.

Capt. Dennis Soliman, PMA information officer, said only three of the original 289 cadets who signed up for the PMA summer boot camp did not make the list.

Of the 1,013 cadets in training,

ON HIGH A15



BIG CHANGE FROM SMALL CHANGE. Cardinal Gaudencio Rosales celebrates the second anniversary of the Piendo ng Pinoy Foundation at La Salle Green Hills. The foundation collects only coins for donations but has raised a total of P85 million since the cardinal started the project when he became archbishop of Manila. (Story on Page A4)

Orthopedic boat sails Visayan seas

By Maria Cangco S. Gomez
Contributor

ITS NAME "HIMAY" IS DERIVED from an Ilonggo term that means "freedom to move around," and it plies the Visayan seas.

The 30-ton, 16-meter-long specially designed and fully equipped boat with an eight-member staff docks in remote areas of the archipelago to fulfill a mission: Provide free orthopedic devices for those in need.

Himay has produced 68 artificial limbs (prostheses), 12 corrective braces and 17 special chairs for people with disabilities (PWDs) since it began operations in January 2005.

It has visited the island municipalities of Antique, Masbate, Bohol, southern Antique and northern Leyte, staying in each place for three months.

All the devices are made on the boat by Elmar Villaganas, its lone technician. Himself a PWD from Talisayan, Walang Nagdan, Villaganas has been making assistive devices for 15 years.

Some of the required materials—such as plaster of Paris, EVO-60, hardener, sandstone and pipe insert, color—are purchased in Sta. Cruz or Binondo, Manila.

Southern Leyte was where Himay docked in the first week of May. Nine municipalities were on the recipient list: St. Bernard, San Juan, Liloan, San Francisco, San Ricardo, Sogod, Bontoc, Macrohon and Maasin.

According to Benjamin Gobin, program director of Handicap International (HI) Philippines, and his colleagues, the idea of an "or-

ORTHOPEDIC A8

WEATHER FORECAST

[illegible]

Second FRONTPAGE

[illegible]

Ready relocation sites – GMA

By Bobby Q. Labrador and Nikko Jesse Y. Orbeta
PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

JUBAN, SORSOGON—PRESIDENT MACAPAGAL-Arroyo yesterday ordered the immediate establishment of relocation sites for evacuees who would be affected in the event of a major eruption by Mt. Bulusan.

Volcanology experts told the President on Saturday that a major eruption could threaten the lives of at least 20,000 people overlooking near the twelve volcano.

Mr. Arroyo flew here from Legaspi City to inspect disaster preparedness that began three weeks ago when the 1,565-meter volcano began emitting ash and steam.

The President was briefed by experts of the Philippine Institute of Volcanology and Seismology, Office of Civil Defense and regional and provincial disaster coordinating councils on the preparations being made.

Phivolcs Director Renato Solidum told Mr. Bulusan was capable of a "long duration eruption" which could last for a year or two, thus necessitating permanent relocation sites for those to be affected.

Sorsogon Gov. Fred Lee said he had instructed the mayors of the four towns presently affected by the volcano's subzone to identify possible relocation sites in their respective areas.

Residents of the northwestern sector of the volcano are said to be the ones to be immediately affected in case of an eruption with lahar flows reaching as far as 10 km away, said the Phivolcs chief during the media briefing.

Phivolcs said Mt. Bulusan remained under alert level 2 with seven high-frequency volcanic earthquakes recorded during the past 24-hour observation period.

"Sulfur dioxide (SO2) emission rate of the volcanic plume was measured at 438 tons per day yesterday (June 16), lessening activity from the active summit crater, and western flanks (called 'bunga' or mudpots)," a Phivolcs report said.

These observations indicate a [illegible] at moderate level of unrest with full probability of more explosions," the report added.

Experts from Phivolcs and the local civil defense office laid out to the President a "worst-case scenario" where portions of the peak would collapse into Lake Bulusan as the eastern base of the mountain.

If this happens, the water may flood the entire coastal town of Bulusan, a town of just under 21,000 people, Civil Defense Official Eduardo Del Mundo told Mr. Arroyo during the briefing.

Solidum said the town's residents would then have to be moved out of harm's way and housed temporarily in shelters where they may have to stay for months while waiting for the volcanic activity to subside.

"Authorities will likely hold him and not close to schools won't be overburdened. The town city will be outside the 10-kilometer danger zone," Solidum said.

He said the worst-case scenario would involve ashfalls and the spitting out of hot rocks and dust from the crater.

Irenio Mayor Gilda Gonzales expressed clear fear families from Barangay Cogon composed of at least 25 persons would have to be evacuated as their residences were located on a river bank, which was identified as a possible path of the lahar flow.

Gonzales said they had already identified a privately owned lot that could serve as a temporary relocation site for the families.

Sorsogon Rep. Francis Escudero also went around the affected towns of Sorsogon to check on the residents' situation.

He and Gualpanio Bhoys Bulusan Hanna Gardiner(US,000 have made to the residents of Barangay Brigadoon. With an AFP report

A LOCAL resident wades through a river think with pyroclastic deposits spewed by Mt. Bulusan. Some residents around the volcano have been evacuated to safer ground after it hurled a plume of ash 1.5 kms into the night sky Tuesday forcing several schools to close and prompting officials to call emergency meetings to assess the damage to agriculture and health.

Gas, kerosene prices up 50¢/liter

By Abigail L. Ho

OIL FIRMS YESTERDAY RAISED again the pump prices of gasoline and kerosene by 50 centavos per liter.

Chevron Philippines Inc. hiked its price at 12:01 a.m. followed by Pilipinas Shell Petroleum Corp. at 6 a.m. and industry leader Petron Corp. at noon.

Total (Philippines) Corp. also increased prices effective 12:01 a.m. today.

New players Unioil Petroleum Corp. and Flying V will make similar price adjustments tomorrow at 12:01 a.m. Eastern Petroleum Corp. will follow suit at noon the same day.

According to data from the Department of Energy, the regional benchmark Dubai crude rose to a three-week high of $65.30 a barrel from $65.a barrel in May.

The price of refreshed gasoline based on the Mean of Platts Singapore (MOPS) benchmark for refined petroleum products, meanwhile, increased to $63.06 a barrel in the first 15 days of the month from the May average of $60.40 a barrel.

But MOPS-based Diesel surged to an average of $66.47 a barrel in the June 1-15 period from $60.53 a barrel last month.

Diesel pump prices were spared from the price hike, however, as the impact of the one-percentage-point reduction in import tariffs for crude and refined petroleum products was all channeled to diesel.

Since the start of the year, oil firms have increased gasoline prices 14 times or by a total of P7 a liter. Diesel prices have increased 12 times or by a total of P5 a liter, while kerosene prices have risen 13 times or by a total of P7.50 per liter.

These new price adjustments will bring premium unleaded gasoline prices to between P46.79 and P48.86 per liter, diesel to between P33.29 and P37.28 per liter, and kerosene to between P37.56 and P41.pesos liter.

Take people's initiative issue to SC, urges FVR

By Nikko Dizon and Gil Cabacungan Jr.

A DAY AFTER HE WAS REPORTED TO NOW be backing the people's initiative as a mode for Charter change, former President Fidel V. Ramos advised Cha-cha proponents to "go ahead the issue by the horns" by filing a petition seeking a ruling from the Supreme Court on whether the mode is constitutional.

"Instead of everybody guessing whether it's legal or constitutional, why don't you go to the issue by the horns? Where is that petition? Any group of taxpayers can file such a petition," Ramos told reporters yesterday at the Sheraton Manila International Airport.

"Securing that we file the petition and we will have a favorable ruling, that is the only way to do it," the influential ex-President said.

Ramos had made a commitment to help President Macapagal-Arroyo's Charter Change Advocacy Commission (ConCom) push for a shift to a parliamentary system of government through a people's initiative, the group said in a statement on Thursday.

Ad Hoc chair Jose Wenceslao Lorenzo was told Ramos made the pledge at a meeting on Wednesday with the commission members.

Constructive debates

Malacañang, meanwhile, urged the public to focus on constructive debates on Charter change rather than muddle the discussions by concerning terms over semantics.

"It is important at this point to sustain an informed and transparent debate on Charter change rather than engage in doomsday scenarios and self-defeating arguments that will only be slip this opportunity for a better future for our nation and people," Press Secretary Ignacio Bunye said yesterday.

Bunye made the statement after Sen. Joker Arroyo described the people's initiative "with its 6 million signatures" for making Charter change a legitimate act. "It's people's initiative! Give the citizens and constituents assembly a life of its own," the President said in her speech in Cebu Friday.

Buoyed hopes

Bunye said the support thrown by leaders and lawmakers for Charter change "buoys the people's hopes that fundamental reforms in our economic and political systems are near and imminent."

Malacañang had earlier endorsed the use of mass actions and antiviolence (PEDC) as a platform in spreading the President's advocacy in national Cha-Cha to be reflected in the country's long-standing political malaise.

"If they (the SOJO) will be used to help in explaining the need for constitutional reforms, we don't see anything wrong in this," Bunye said in a briefing last Thursday.

Nothing improper

Senate Minn Rep. Teddy Casino had previously lambasted the Palace for using government money and instructions like the SOJO in partisan undertakings such as Charter change.

"These educational institutions are really the site of various discussions and we don't see anything improper if over the SOJO would tackle Charter change in their debates," Bunye said.

Bunye said there was no stopping the debates on Charter change because "it has assumed a life of its own."

US to give RP $21M to fight corruption

THE UNITED STATES HAS APPROVED A $21-million aid program to combat corruption in the Philippines, the US Embassy in Manila said yesterday.

The grant was approved Friday under the congressionally funded Millennium Challenge account (MCA) program, which seeks to reward countries which perform well.

The two-year initiative would strengthen the Office of the Ombudsman, a special prosecutor for criminal cases involving government officials, and the Department of Finance and comes under the Millennium Challenge Corp. (MCC), a US federal agency that funds such development assistance.

Reduce opportunities

The multimillion-dollar financing aims to "reduce opportunities for corruption throughout the government by training Ombudsman employees and establishing better information systems and investigative and surveillance capability," the embassy said in a statement.

It would also seek to improve enforcement in three revenue units of the finance department—the Bureau of Internal Revenue, Bureau of Customs and the Revenue Integrity Protection Service.

USAID in charge

The US Agency for International Development will run the program, the embassy said.

The anticorruption aid is part of an initiative by US President George W. Bush to help countries tackle the main obstacles to their development.

"The MCC program represents an important opportunity for the United States and the Philippines to deepen our partnership by strengthening government institutions to ensure that resources are used for their intended effects," US Ambassador to Manila Kristie Kenney said in the statement.

An MCA statement said the Philippines was ineligible for participation in broader MCA assistance programs "because of persistent performance and policy constraints."

It said the Philippines suffered from "high levels of corruption in tax and customs administration, conflicts of interest in the public sector and weak enforcement of existing anticorruption laws." AFP, AP

CA justice tapped to head DOLE

By Cl C. Cabaungan Jr.

PRESIDENT MACAPAGAL-ARROYO HAS tapped an associate justice of the Court of Appeals to replace Labor Secretary Patricia Sto. Tomas, a presidential loyalist who is being rewarded with the chance for his unfinished year of chair of the Development Bank of the Philippines.

Justice Arturo D. Brion, a former labor and foreign affairs undersecretary and bar topnotcher, is to take over the labor portfolio on July 1, Press Secretary Ignacio Bunye announced yesterday.

In an interview, Brion said his first priority would be to study the programs and policies that Sto. Tomas had carried out during the five years that she headed the Department of Labor and Employment.

"I am taking over 20 out a successful labor secretary and I would like to maintain her legacy of peaceful labor and management relations to keep the same level of efficiency as minimum," Brion said.

He said industrial peace would be the biggest challenge of his term.

"For to my mind, a the biggest hindrance to progress, I'm really glad that employers are not averse to giving a wage increase now in the face of rising oil prices as long as this is not done through legislation," said Brion, who became associate justice of the appellate court in July 2003.

Before joining the government in 2001, Brion was a senior partner at the Sycip Salazar Hernandez & Gatmaitan law office specializing in labor law.

Brion headed the DOLE's labor relations cluster from March 2001 to July 2002, before becoming foreign affairs undersecretary for special projects from August 2002 to June 2003.

He graduated cum laude and was valedictorian of the Ateneo de Manila College of Law Class of 1978. He placed first in the 1979 bar exams with a grade of 91.85 percent. He obtained his master of laws specializing in labor law at York University in Canada where he graduated on the dean's list.

A militant workers' group, however, yesterday expressed distrust in Brion's appointment, saying he had a poor image as a champion of workers' rights.

The Alliance of Progressive Labor said it did not like how Brion dealt labor groups and handled cases when he was labor undersecretary.

"We're not happy with him, but we would be happy to be proven wrong," said APL secretary general Josua Mata in a phone interview.

Mata said the group hoped Brion would be better than Sto. Tomas whose performance they judged as "dismal."

The President reluctantly let go of Sto. Tomas who wanted out of the stressful labor department post. Sto. Tomas is one of Ms Arroyo's most loyal officials, refusing to join the Hyatt 10 group of Cabinet members who resigned last year.

"President Arroyo is proud of Secretary Sto. Tomas's public service record which is a testimony to hard work, honesty and industrial competence," said Bunye.

He said Sto. Tomas would take over as DBP chair from Antonino Aldaba on the first week of July. No position has yet been announced for Aldaba, who was appointed only last March.

Bunye said Sto. Tomas's final mission at DOLE would be to sign a labor agreement with her Spanish counterpart during the President's visit to Spain later this month. The agreement is seen as easing the flow of Filipino labor to the former colonial power. *With a report from Leila Salaverria*

Workers decry SC action on Luisita

CITY OF SAN FERNANDO... TWO GROUPS OF workers claiming land at Hacienda Luisita yesterday decried the Supreme Court's order preventing the government from immediately breaking up the sugar estate and parceling the land out to its tenants and other workers in line with a decision by the Presidential Agrarian Reform Council.

"We are extremely saddened by the injunction," Rene Galang, chair of the United Luisita Workers Union (Ulwu), said in a statement yesterday. "It is very clear that the Cojuangcos have already many terms" of the Stock Distribution Option Agreement (SDOA) that had made the workers co-owners of the sugar estate under the government's land reform program in 1989.

Galang said the Ulwu would ask the Supreme Court's penal arrests to reconsider the temporary restraining order it issued on Friday against the PARC and Department of Agrarian Reform. He said in a statement earlier that he hoped the court would realize that issuing the TRO was a mistake.

"We hope that the court would see the error of fact decision and in the effects on the lives of us farm workers. Just even with the TRO we will continue tilling the land and intensify our struggle to retake Luisita. The SC has added fuel to the fire in this miserable issue," Galang said.

The DAR too has said it intends to ask the court to reconsider the TRO.

Galang said the SDOA allowed the family of former President Corazon Aquino to retain ownership and control over the vast estate, which consists of 4,915 hectares spanning 10 barangays in Tarlac.

Noel Mallari, chair of farmworkers Agrarian Reform Movement-Hacienda Luisita (Arm-Luisita) said the injunction has "prolonged the injustice" on workers there, and said the group would reflect the court's promises.

"The court's management said the TRO would give it a chance to check if the workers really want the land to be parceled out among them or to continue with the shareholding scheme that has made them co-owners of the corporate farm with the Cojuangcos", who remain majority owners and retain control.

"(Majority of the farm workers say they) really want the land, (have a) stake with us," said lawyer Vigor Mendoza, counsel for Hacienda Luisita Inc., or respondent's Kapihan sa Sikit were here in Quezon City.

He said the RLI management will hold a series of dialogues with the workers while waiting for the court to resolve the issue. Jennifer Dopito, PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER Central Luzon, and Norman Bordadora

House to mull CARP extension

BICOLANDIA CITY—THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES will conduct a large-scale assessment of the Comprehensive Agrarian Reform Program (CARP) before it decides whether or not to extend the program, according to Speaker Jose de Venecia.

De Venecia said reporters here on Friday night that he agreed with the position taken by a number of solons, including those from Negros Occidental, who had asked that the CARP be extended to determine if it had achieved its goal of uplifting the lives of farmer beneficiaries before extending its implementation.

Agrarian reform officials have been pushing for the extension of CARP beyond 2008 when its implementation would expire, saying much still needed to be done.

President Macapagal-Arroyo also reportedly is planning to ask Congress to extend the land reform program another five years after 2008 to help some two million farmers become well-to-do farmers.

In 1988, the Comprehensive Agrarian Reform Law (CARL) enabled the government to break up large landholdings that were then sold under easy 15 to 20-year terms to landless farmers.

Now on its 18th year, just a million out of three million have become economically viable farmers, Speaker CARP Agrarian Reform Secretary Nasser Pangandaman said.

De Venecia said a factor that would constitute to extending agrarian reform would be the success of the negotiations with the Moros' family on their so-called ill-gotten wealth.

"If I find it (Marcos' wealth) recovered then you have a major source of funds for financing agrarian reform," he said.

The implementation of the Expanded Value-Added Tax also generated a significant amount of funds for agrarian reform, De Venecia said.

De Venecia was here to speak to the city's barangay captains and to attend the Philippine Councilors League 6th Bicolandia Congress.

Giving assurance how landowners has been tolerant for the slow pace of CARP's implementation.

In the Bicolandia Peninsula, landowners have resorted to the use of reclaimed law to resist coverage by CARP.

Citing the recent arrest of farmers, former UP College of Law dean Raul Pangalangan noted that landowners in the area accused their tenants farmers of criminal offenses to stop the distribution of their lands. Cathy Pooma, PDI Visayas Bureau, and Glenville S. Rivera

Reenacted budget to cut GDP growth, solon warns

By Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.

THE FAILURE OF CONGRESS TO pass the P1.015-trillion budget for 2006, which includes a fiscal stimuli package worth P120 billion, is expected to trip off at least one percent from the country's gross domestic product growth rate this year.

Albay representative and former economic adviser Joey Salceda said a reenacted budget without the fiscal stimulus package would make the Philippine economy more vulnerable to a fallout from the downturn in the US economy, one of the country's biggest trading partners.

"An higher interest rates slow down global GDP growth, sustaining the Philippine economic expansion would increasingly rely on domestic aggregate demand. With five consecutive years of money supply growth, we can no longer give our hopes on monetary stimulus since the BSP [Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas] is under pressure with policy rates now behind the curve with the US Federal Reserve Board. All of these could precipitate the contractionary impulse of recent fiscal shock measures," said Salceda.

"Without increased government spending in the form of infrastructure outlays and social services subsidies, Intinda said the country's growth rate becomes should be cut by at least one percentage point (or P64 billion based on a GDP of P6.4 trillion).

The Intersectoral Development and Budget Coordinating Committee projects GDP to grow between 5.5 percent and 6.2 percent this year.

This is why Salceda said, the P120 billion new spending embedded in the 2006 budget assumes greater fundamental weight.

"These conditions overweigh any real off- and whatever potential impact of the congressional inquiries of the President. Under these conditions, a reenacted budget is morally wrong," said Salceda more than a week after Congress ended its session without passing the budget due to the Senate's insistence on cutting more than P6.6 billion from the outlay.

Slower economic growth due to the failure to pass the 2006 budget "would deprive at least 300,000 Filipinos from coming over the poverty line since 90 percent of poverty reduction comes from GDP growth," according to Salceda.

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Major revamp at Senate seen with Villar takeover

By Juliet Labog-Javellana

SOME INCUMBENTS ARE EXPECTING A MAJOR reorganization in the Senate when Sen. Manuel Villar takes over its presidency on July 24.

Sources in the chamber said a major revamp of committee chairmanships will be in the offing after the leadership change at the start of Congress's third regular session late next month.

Senate President Franklin Drilon and Villar traded months of speculation on whether the former would comply with their gentlemen's agreement, forged in 2004, to split the leadership of the 13th Congress between them, when they held a joint press conference early this month pledging a smooth transfer of power on July 24.

The transition, however, would be formal, itself when Villar gets at least 13 senators to vote for him on that day. He has confirmed he has the commitment of 16 senators.

Senate sources said the changes would include giving the finance and public order committees to Drilon, the defense committee to Sen. Miriam Defensor-Santiago and some important committees to opposition senators Jinggoy Estrada, two of three members of the minority who signed the resolution endorsing Villar as the new Senate President.

The source also said the senators in the majority who did not sign the resolution, like Rodolfo Biazon, Alan Peter and Richard Gordon, could retain their major committees.

Villar would not be rumored for vengeance. He left Friday for a three-week European vacation.

While Malacañang rejoiced at the ascension of Villar, it appeared that Drilon would still be in a position of power in the Senate.

An ostensibly ally of President Macapagal-Arroyo, **Drilon withdrew support for the "Hello Garci" wiretap controversy** alleging she had cheated in the 2004 election in her favor.

A senator said Drilon would take over the finance committee chaired by Villar. But a second senator said Drilon would not only get the finance committee but other committees currently held by the housing magnate. Drilon earlier refused to confirm or deny this.

Villar heads three powerful committees – finance, public order and illegal drugs, and accounts.

The committee on finance handles matters relating to the budget and basis of the national government, including the payment of salary and the audit of public expenditures.

The turnover of the committee to Drilon would make him a key player in the battle with Malacañang and the House of Representatives over the proposed Cha-cha 2006 national budget.

The committee on accounts handles the Senate operating budget.

The public order committee, on the other hand, has jurisdictions over all issues pertaining to peace and order, the Philippine National Police, Bureau of Jail Management and Penology, Bureau of Fire Protection and private security agencies, as well as all matters pertaining to illegal drugs.

This committee investigated allegations the President and her family benefited from "jueteng" operations.

A senator said the committee on national defense and security could go to Santiago, an ally of Mrs Arroyo's. The committee is currently chaired by Sen. Rodolfo Biazon, a member of Drilon's Liberal Party which also withdrew support from the President.

Biazon's committee handles sensitive inquiries, including the "Hello Garci" controversy which has yet to be concluded.

When asked if he requested to retain the chairmanship of the defense committee, Biazon said: "I don't want to talk about it. If they want to take my committee, it's up to them."

Biazon, Peter and Gordon were the only three **majority senators who did not sign the resolution** backing Villar. The fourth was vice Sen. Ramon Magsaysay Jr. who is out of the political scene.

Biazon said he would follow the LP party line, **which is to support Villar.** He said there had been no discussion of an LP party stand but the decision of Unified and Senator Majority Leader Francis Pangilinan to sign the Villar resolution appeared to be the party position.

Besides the committee chairmanships on economic affairs and trade and commerce,

Gordon chairs three Senate committees – constitutional amendments, tourism, and government corporations and public enterprises.

Sources said he was approached by Villar to sign but he asked for more time.

Sources say the latter's bid in conducting a dialogue with the Chinese on Chinese charges and is the principal author of the certified election automation bill.

Neither Villar nor the Estrada mother-and-son combos would say if the two would become part of the Senate majority with their support of Villar.

ASPIRIN
COR-30

From small change 'Pondo' raises P80M

By Lolit R. Sabenorin

IN THE TWO YEARS SINCE IT WAS started, the Pondo ng Pinoy donation drive initiated by Manila Archbishop Emeritus Cardinal Rosales has proved the power of small things.

From collecting donations of as little as 25 centavos, the program has fed and educated numerous hungry-faced children, provided jobs to impoverished parents, and taught values to many.

As of April 2006, the Pondo ng Pinoy Foundation has collected almost P80 million from donations to the Pondo tin cans placed at the premises of Manila.

"Pondo ng Pinoy brings back that smallness in little things, little steps, small bits and small lives that still have the power to lead even a powerful giant," Rosales said in his homily during the the program's second anniversary at the Luneta Grass Hills.

"The philosophy of Pondo ng Pinoy assures us that there is power in little movements as long as they remain united," he said.

Rosales warned that good, evil—about us anything that threatens small acts of kindness should be organized as obstacles to progress.

The Cardinal thanked all those who have contributed to the Pondo campaign, but reminded people that donating money should be an act of love.

He recalled the story of a young boy nicknamed Jayjay, whose mother and teacher served to him about the boy's activities.

Jayjay, a grade school student, made a habit of donating to the Pondo ng Pinoy bowls in his school.

According to his mother, Jayjay would save all the 25-centavo coins that he would find in passenger jeepneys or in his mother's coffee as donate to the Pondo bowl.

Rosales said that even when Jayjay was stricken with a serious illness and stopped going to school, the boy still asked that the Pondo ng Pinoy bowls be brought to him so that he could donate money. The boy was on the set long after.

"It was a touch of love," Rosales said of Jayjay's act.

"That is the kind of good news our country needs," he said.

The Cardinal also stressed that the Pondo ng Pinoy Foundation was not just about collecting money donations, but about building a family. He said that to grating, both giver and receiver learn the teachings of the Gospel.

"What Pondo ng Pinoy is doing is introducing a community of believers into a family of people and individuals who have become persons with a vision of what they want to be—men and women with fullness of life, believing in and loving a Triune God," he said.

Arsenio H. Balisacan, UP Lifetime achievement awardee for theater and the arts (center) is flanked by four fellow golden jubilarians who were TOYM awardees, namely from left, Antonio Marcos Libunao, Rodolfo T. Reyes, Reynaldo J. Gregorio and Dr. Teodoro P. Nagtalon

Fifty years on, Class '56 achievers lead golden jubilarians at UP fete

NATIONAL ACHIEVERS EMERGING THE 1956 graduates of the University of the Philippines who will celebrate their golden jubilee during the annual UP Alumni Reunion and Homecoming on June 24 at the Balintawak Alumni, UP Diliman.

Arsenio H. Balisacan will be conferred the Lifetime Achievement Award for his contribution to the theater and the arts.

Many other prominent professionals being in this year's group of UP Golden Jubilarians. Among them are eight TOYM (Ten Outstanding Young Men) awardees, a Supreme Court justice, four former Court of Appeals justices, and other well-known judiciary members, government officials, business executives, educators and heads of nongovernment organizations.

TOYM awardees

The TOYM awardees are Senator Manuel Lahaylan for agricultural sciences (1970); Bienvenido O. Juliano for science (1964); Cirilo Adolfo B. Nolasco for medicine (1979); Dr. Augusto Librojo for medicine (1962); Dr. Teodoro P. Nagtalon for medicine-ration and social surgery (1966); Reynaldo J. Gregorio for economics and public administration (1966); Rodolfo T. Reyes for journalism (1961) and Dr. Florante L. Jocson for medicine (1966).

Two other TOYM awardees belonging to Batch '56 have passed away. They were Dr. Bernard E. Ray Jr. for pediatric surgery (1967) and Maria Lourdes for cultural anthropology (1966).

The Ramon Fue Patris award, conferred by the Presidents for outstanding contributions in the agricultural sciences, went to Valentino E. Sitoson for animal science, Bienvenido O. Juliano for cereal chemistry, Dolores A. Ramirez for plant genetics and Cirilo Adolfo B. Perez for agricultural research.

Dr. Juan C. Alcaraz received in 2004 the Tatlí award for agriculture. The award was conceived by the Philippine Jaycees Sentrop in 1988 to give recognition to men and women 45 years of age and over for their exemplary achievements.

Legal luminaries

The UP Law Class of '56 has the distinction of having the largest number of UP graduates passing the bar in a single year.

All '56 graduates passed the bar exams—a record that remains unmatched. Three members placed in the top 10, and seven made it to the top 20.

This year, 184 surviving members of the class will celebrate their golden jubilee.

Among the legal luminaries are former Supreme Court Justice Santiago Kapunan and Court of Appeals Justices Bienvenido Agrix Jr., Ramon Barcelona, Ramon Wenceslao Jr. and Ricardo Galvez (deceased).

Also members of the class are Securities and Exchange Commission chair Fe Barin; Atty. Roque Alfias of Roxas Stores; former Defense Undersecretary Fernando Campos; former governors Amadeo Remolda of Cavite and Mariano Uy. Ocampo III of Tarlac; former land transportation board commissioners Cesar Orbeta Asuncion, Edilberto Barut, Sandiego Bondan Jr. and Mario Orgdelen.

Retired judges

Other members are retired regional trial court judge Lilia Lopez (the steering force in the establishment of the Pasay City Youth Home where detained children in conflict with the law are housed and cared for), Pilar Rodriguez Trinidad and Florita Flores (who organized and ran the Kabalikat ng Pamilyang Pilipino Foundation, which is engaged in population control issues and HIV/AIDS prevention).

Journalists

From the graduates of the UP College of Liberal Arts, Louie Beltran and Rod Reyes made names for themselves in journalism.

Beltran's "Straight from the Shoulder" program was a hit on TV. He served as DP dean of students in the '80s.

Reyes chalked up 50 years of experience in the print and broadcast media and became the press secretary of President Fidel V. Ramos and Joseph Estrada.

The UP College of Nursing had only 23 graduates in 1956. Four have since died, 19 are in the United States and 10 have resumed in the country.

Reminiscences

The Golden Jubilarians, reminiscing on campus experiences in the '50s, paid tribute to the tough workings of their professors.

At the same time, they looked back to a happy college life.

The nurses particularly recalled how they "got along incredibly well under hardworking conditions in the Nurses Home of the Philippine General Hospital, with cramped quarters, low water pressure, curfew and lights out at 10 p.m."

P138 per semester

Ed Olaguer of Engineering Class '56, recalled that "inclusive of the P130 tuition, our total enrollment fees were in the vicinity of P150 a semester—a fresh college graduate's average salary at that time."

Oscar Evangelista recounted: "Freshmen did not go through the rigorous entrance examination. A high school average grade in the 90s automatically qualified one to enter UP. High school honor graduates were given entrance scholarships. The whole country was still reportedly in the recline body."

Correction

IN THE ARTICLE "Unique redress Cabinet man-whole Lecilla is posted" on page A6 of the June 18 issue, the references to "two-digit" and "single-digit" recipients of Cabinet members should have read "two-digit millionaire" and "single-digit millionaire" categories.

Readers may send their requests for corrections of factual errors in writing to the Readers' Representative Inquirer Philippine Daily Building, Chino Roces Avenue corner Makati Ave., Makati City, fax No. 897-47-59/94, e-mail: reader@inquirer.com.ph.

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US renews travel alert on RP

WASHINGTON — The United States government on Friday renewed a travel warning for American citizens in the Philippines, saying terrorist groups and radical insurgents were planning multiple attacks and Westerners were particularly vulnerable.

In a renewed warning, Chargé d'affaires Joseph Mussomeli said: "Americans continued to be the subject of threats by terrorist groups, including the Jemaah Islamiyah and the Abu Sayyaf, sometimes to plan multiple attacks throughout the Philippines, as do some radical insurgents who have been hit many times more than the United States has."

The advisory is the first of Mussomeli's term and the 84th issued by the Philippines since the September 11, 2001, attacks in the United States.

It noted that since January 2005, there have been increased reports of kidnappings, including those against US citizens.

"Terrorist groups, including the Jemaah Islamiyah and the Abu Sayyaf, sometimes to plan multiple attacks throughout the Philippines, as do some radical insurgents who have been hit many times more than the United States has," said the State Department in a statement.

Orthopedic boat sails Visayan seas for disabled

Front page A1

THE GOOD ship Hilwat, fully equipped to provide free orthopedic devices, services persons with disabilities in remote areas.

...thopedic boat" was immediately appealing because access to orthotic areas had always posed a problem.

It was not an abrupt idea, but once it jelled, it was rushed through the process to allow Ed to seek the necessary grants, Gobio said.

The idea emerged from the extensive surveys that the staff had conducted on PWDs in remote areas, most of whom live below the poverty line and are thus deprived of rehabilitation services.

An ambulatory service was initially considered but for some reasons was shelved. A community orthopedic center with a building, equipment and machinery was also studied.

But members of the 40 staff preferred something that would allow them to move from one area to another and spend some time in each. (Currently, a relief boat is not an everyday service concept in the Philippines. Decades back, after all, there was a hospital ship in Iloilo now, Cebu.)

3 factors

Three factors were considered for the Hilwat project—location, cost and delivery of services.

In recounting how the project came about, Gobio cited the story of a 12-year-old girl who had less her right leg in a submarine accident.

The girl's parents could not send her to a rehabilitation center because they lived too far away and would not afford the commutation cost.

But the family members persevered in raising the money for the fare. They were able to do so only after six years, and the girl was finally brought to the center.

By then, however, deformity had set in and the rehabilitation process took longer than it should have.

Bodel Magbanua, HI project manager in Catabato City, gave the project its name. Gobio wrote the proposal for the World Bank that qualified the project for funding.

Through the Philippine Development Innovation Marketplace for Emergency, the Hilwat project received a substantial grant—P6.8 million to finance the boat's construction and maintenance, and P2.2 million for yearly operations.

A RESIDENT of Masbate's rugby rail with his new artificial leg.

'Baby'

Beaming, Gobio talked about the "good deal" he got from the management of Hertsa shipyard in Mactan, Batanes.

The ship might "look a bear strong enough to survive the Philippines' volatile weather conditions. At one point, they called it "baby" it being the first time they built a mission boat.

The specifications were: Full engine(s) with a rear taking (Hilwat sets of 22 square meters; engine and stock room with complete machines and tools for making assistive devices; two smaller boats on standby in be used for even remote places; state-of-the-art navigational systems such as GPS, trawler and radar; life rafts, jackets, extinguishers and basic facilities for the staff of eight (10 lagunas, two physical therapists, a community social worker, an occupational therapist, a logistics man, a nurse and a doctor).

Hilwat even made a historic trip to Banda Aceh, Indonesia, in December 2004 to help in the international effort to bring relief to victims of the deadly tsunami.

In reality, Hilwat represents PWDs' yearning to be treated freely, overcoming social and environmental barriers.

It represents within the context of the United Nations Convention on "the promotion and protection of the rights and dignity of [PWDs]."

It abides by the UN slogan that "all human beings are born free and equal in dignity and rights."

A normal life

If most PWDs cope by accepting their lot, that is because they believe in Divine Providence, or that karma "or something done to it" is at work, said Romulo Tinbad, a resident of Barangay Osmeña, San Juan, Southern Leyte.

Like other beneficiaries, Tinbad, 47, received an artificial left leg two weeks after the Hilwat staff evaluated his case.

He lost his real leg in 1995 while working as a furniture shop in Cabocan City.

Burdened by a bad life in Manila, he headed home to San Juan with his wife Nilpa and their five children in tow.

Tinbad himself designed his first artificial leg of palm frond; later he made one using the hardwood Lanete.

When he saw the artificial leg Hilwat had made for him, Tinbad looked up at the sky and thanked God for the blessing.

But he found room to crack a joke: "There's something bothering in this leg." He could not imagine that his prayers had been answered.

"Normal life once more," he whispered.

'Lipay, lipay'

Angelito Aragon of Barangay Cadiao was installed by a similar emotion.

The 45-year-old fisherman got the surprise of his life one Monday afternoon when the Hilwat staff presented to him his artificial right leg.

Aragon gasped for breath and became so tearful that his speech was hardly audible.

"Lipay, lipay (happy, happy)," he said repeatedly. Then he clasped his hands to his chest, rolled his eyes upward, and his head drooped.

He had been walking with the aid of a wooden crutch for 30 years—a classic village story of sharks and men searching for food in the vast expanse of the sea.

As Aragon raced to and fro on his artificial leg, the crowd roared with delight.

It may be too soon to make plans, he said, but among those soon to glow for this field, such employment is a big factor. (P—and play basketball.

Ministry in Western Visayas

Asked why the Hilwat project seemed to be a "ministry" to Western Visayas (and hopefully soon to Mindanao), Gobio could only shrug.

He explained: "There are few rehabilitation professionals in these areas. The poverty level is so low that PWDs have no access to any existing centers. Like in Masbate, a lot of small islands hamper assistance, and there are no field personnel to do the work for whatever reasons.

"Our moral obligation is to know we are [rendering] substantial results. We believe that a normal life is a vital component of a quality future...

"For Hilwat to successfully function, its staff has modified some of its operations. It maximize independence from any person, that it does not leave its work unclear."

Vital to Hilwat is coordination with local government units for social workers are in close touch with local residents.

Implementing projects by its staff is crucial to Hilwat, because it prefers to involve the locals for turnover purposes.

In areas of diverse backgrounds, Hilwat maintains a "no comment" stance, as a policy, it prevents services regardless of creed, code and customs.

Harmony

"We try to make sure that we are warmly welcomed by the locals and that harmony prevails. But we also never be discredited with suspicion," Gobio said.

He added: "We also break from the perception that PWDs cannot participate in community activities. They can be integrated into the mainstream given the proper orientation.

"Do you have to be disabled to care for the rights of PWDs? Do you need to be in jail to care for the rights of prisoners?

"If we don't do it, who would?"

Paul McCartney at 64 . . .

Front page A1

born to Liverpool in 1942, the average life expectancy of a British infant boy was 63 years. Notwithstanding chest reconstruction and the greatly exaggerated rumors of his death years ago, McCartney is another year older today, Father's Day.

He was a teenager when he wrote the tune for "When I'm Sixty-four," and only 24 when the Beatles recorded it in 1967 for "Sgt. Pepper's Lonely Hearts Club Band."

But just as George Orwell's "1984" proved to be no chilling prophecy of a worst-case scenario of the future but an uncannily insightful rendition, McCartney's lyrics delivered to a well-consciously youthful generation an enduring, if satirical definition of what their golden age might be like "many years from now."

Missing the mark

Today, many of those who embraced that quaint vision of sprinkling love, caring, fostering and partnering in awareness... "Will you still need me, will you still feed me, when I'm 64?"...couldn't have been more wrong.

And judging by his personal life, McCartney missed the mark, too. The song's premise of continuous will to bring true partners has proved, at best, bittersweet for him. Last month, he announced his separation from his second wife, Heather Mills, who is 38.

"Will you still need me?" indeed.

Since 1967, American divorce rates per capita have more than doubled (three quarters of men married in the late 1960s celebrated their 30th wedding anniversaries with their first wife, compared with about half who married in the early 1970s).

Americans live longer today. They also age more slowly, or so they say.

By the song still resonates. According to many accounts, McCartney wrote the lyrics for his father (his mother had died of breast cancer when he was 13) and the song was recorded not long after the elder McCartney turned 64.

"While it may have been done longer to check," said Brian Spitzer, a Beatles biographer, "the lyrics are timeless art."

Wife of 29 years

McCartney's first wife, Linda, died in 1998 at 56, of breast cancer. They had been married 29 years.

"The time of living with a lifelong partner, as expressed in 'When I'm Sixty-Four,' was shattered by Linda's tragic death," Spitzer said. "The little things expressed in the song, such as watching the garden and going for a Sunday morning drive, were part of his life with Linda." New York Times News Service

It wasn't easy for Rizal to be . . .

Front page A1

born with superpowers and destined to be a hero.

Rizal, however, was human. He had weaknesses and was vulnerable to temptation. He became a hero only because he was able to rise above the common weak.

To begin with, Rizal was born with a physical oddity...he had an oversized head and an underdeveloped body. He was also frail and sickly. As a child he was rather aloof. He preferred to observe things than play with boys his age. He grew up to be less than five feet tall.

While many people wonder how physical shortcomings, drawbacks, Rizal saw them as challenges. He was obsessed with stories of strong men.

When as male, who was into physical fitness, came to live with him in Calamba, six-year-old Rizal became interested in sports and athletics. He learned to swim and to ride a horse. He took long walks with his uncle.

In time, Rizal became robust and healthy and followed a fitness regimen all his life. While journeying through Europe, one of the first places he would visit was a gymnasium.

Rizal also excelled in sharpshooting and fencing. His reputation as being skilled with swords and swords was probably why the Spanish Philosophy Bruno decided to apologize for remarks he made about the ills parents either their risk being challenged by the national hero to a duel. After all, it was learned about that not only could Rizal write his name on the walls using bullets, he did it with extreme calm.

In exile

Like many Filipinos who loved causes of chance, Rizal according to author Austin Coates, had a penchant for lateness. During his early days of exile in Dapitan, he shared a luxury ticket with his student, Ricardo Carnicero, who was a tipping resident.

In September 1892, they were lucky enough to win second prize. Rizal, instead of spending his share of the winnings, bought a seaside farm in Talisay his entire retirement home, which he named into a working plantation.

Rizal's life in Talisay was useful and peaceful but it hid the gathering turmoil in his soul. Although he kept himself busy there was little excitement and glory in the life of an exile. When his child by Josephine died after birth, Rizal felt that his own end would not be far off. Deeply despondent, descending into that "solitude of the soul" where thoughts of failure nearly broke the spirit.

The break-up

When Rizal was in Europe, disappointments surrounded him, particularly at the end of 1890 and early 1891. During this period, he received a letter from Leonor Rivera breaking off their engagement. Rizal cried like a baby and thought he was going mad. Then he learned that his family and other Calamba farmers had been thrown out of their homes. Rizal felt frustrated and powerless.

He also had a falling out with Marcelo H. del Pilar over the dream-see elections for Responsable and the leadership of the Filipino community in Europe. Rizal interpreted their differences as "the grudges slaves harbor against each other as they argue the merits of their chains."

Piqued and frustrated, Rizal wrote Del Pilar: "The 'comrades' from a friend have more than seconds from an enemy."

Rizal experienced pain, despair, frustration and loneliness—cues from life that wounds at all the same way.

Go it alone

Most people think Rizal was perfect in every respect. Yet, there were doubts that he was not an effective organizer. In 1884, he easily convinced Filipino students in Madrid to contribute money for a book that would expose the real problems of the Philippines from different perspectives. A project of this nature needed an astute and tolerant organizer. Rizal had a great idea but lacked the disposition of an effective and patient organizer to pull the project together and make it fly. Consequently, he decided to go it alone and wrote "Noli Me Tangere."

Rizal's split with Del Pilar in 1892 then were the pillars of La Solidaridad, the mouthpiece of the Reform Movement; could be seen as an example of the national hero's impotence with the process of managing conflicting views and clashing personalities.

Rizal always led by example and when army was not forthcoming, his reaction was to go it alone.

Dr women

Rizal was attracted to women as they were attracted to him. He was romantically linked with quite a few; namely, Segunda Katigbak, Leonor Valenzuela, Leonor Rivera, O-Sei-San, Consuelo Ortiga y Perez, Gertrude Beckett, Suzanne Jacoby, Nelly Boustead and Josephine Bracken.

In spite of his affairs with women, however, Rizal was single-minded in the pursuit of his life-long goal. History tells us that the man with a mission must be able, at any given moment, to turn his back on love and live a life of sacrifice and chastity.

Rizal did just that.

When he finally decided to live with Josephine Bracken at his wife, it was in the premise that his exile had been revoked and an eleventh year no longer needed for the kind of life that Dapitan offered.

Heroic choices

And when the "sacrificial cog" had to be sacrificed for the Bagumbayan, the enemy that led to his execution came rather swiftly. There were hardly any long intervals when chastity could have caused untold distress between him and Josephine. By then, any tension between sacrifice and love must have largely spent by the pressure of certain martyrdom.

Rizal, therefore, was just as human as we are; he was vulnerable to pain, emotions and difficult choices.

Historian Ludeo Gumaing, grandnephew of Rizal's sister Narcisa, summed it best: "[The young man] he made to realize that Rizal was once like them, like all of us, flesh and blood, prone to weaknesses and temptations. But unlike most of them, he knew how to overcome them...Twenty-six years to know that it wasn't all that easy for Rizal to become a hero."

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Study IUD use before banning it, DOH urged

By Edwin G. Fernandez
Visayas Bureau

COTABATO CITY—HALF OF practitioners and at least four legislators are urging the Department of Health to hold public consultations before it decides whether or not to ban the use, importation and sale of intrauterine devices (IUD).

A pro-life party-list group, the Muslim Association (AMP) has sought a ban on IUD, one claiming that it is an abortifacient and poses a serious threat to women's health.

Based on the AFP proposal, Health Secretary Francisco Duque III asked Ilchesbay Philippines to submit a request from a single group and urged the DOH to hold final hearings when a wider range of views on IUD use could be aired.

"If the DOH decision is to stand the test of transparency and accountability, the voices of other stakeholders must be heard. As health practitioners who have been dispensing the IUD as an integral part of preventive health services, we are registering our interest to joining such a hearing," the health practitioners said.

Dr. Ilchesbay Warnes is health program in a letter to Duque.

They said they had prescribed and administered the IUD and had witnessed how the method had "helped women and their families" have the children they wanted and could afford."

The letter, a copy of which was given to the reporter, was also signed by four legislators—Representative Mujiv Hataman and Sanny Matba of Basilan, Eduardo Gullasa of Surigao Oriental.

Gullasa, led by its executive director Dr. Janice Grace Refugia, said the continued use of the copper T IUD today by half a million Filipino women was a testament to its safety and suitability.

The device would not be considered an abortifacient, it said.

"The IUD works predominantly before the meeting of the egg and the sperm, so there's no conception at," the letter said.

Samuel Ledesma, program director of the Philippine NGO Council on Population, Health and Welfare, said medical expert is considered the IUD among the safest and most effective family planning methods.

He said the World Health Organization had included it in an list of 212 "essential drugs."

"Many IUDs are among the safest contraceptive methods today with more than 150 million women users worldwide, making it the second most popular method in the world, after sterilization," Ledesma said in a phone interview.

He said that IUDs were 99 percent effective with long duration of action, from five in at least 10 years for the several brands currently in the market.

Because of their being life span, IUDs require fewer visits to health providers, which means fewer expenses, time and effort spent, she said.

Ledesma said that based on a 2000 Family Planning Survey, four percent of married women in the Philippines used the IUD.

SC affirms bank closure 29 years ago

By Armand N. Nocum

THE SUPREME COURT THURSDAY affirmed the legality of the Central Bank's move ordering the closure of General Bank and Trust Company (Genbank) due to unsound banking practices 29 years ago.

In a 36-page decision penned by Associate Justice Canoto Garcia, the high court lambasted the petition filed by Genbank seeking to set aside the 1999 decision of the Court of Appeals (CA) upholding its liquidation.

In that ruling, the appellate court reversed and set aside the Dec. 2, 1992, decision of Manila Regional Trial Court (RTC) Branch 57 ordering the Central Bank to remove the liquidators of Genbank, which had 23 branches and one extension office.

'Arbitrary and bad faith'

The Manila RTC had declared that Monetary Board (MB) Resolution No. 675, which ordered the closure of Genbank, and MB Resolution No. 677 adopting the Lucio Tan's group bid as a liquidation plan of Genbank as "arbitrary" and made in "bad faith."

In its motion for reconsideration filed before the SC, Genbank argued that the appellate court erred when it held that it was insolvent, thus paving the way for its closure and eventual liquidation.

Asset surplus

Genbank said its assets at the time MB Resolutions No. 675 was issued stood at P999.17 million while its total liabilities amounted to P886.6 million, thus it still had P112 million more to assets than liabilities by 1677.

Likewise, Genbank contended that the CA committed a mistake when it held that the property rights of the bank were not impaired upon although the Central Bank "unilaterally and arbitrarily and in bad faith" ordered its closure on March 20, 1977.

However, the Court said that the CA did not commit errors that would warrant the reversal of the Dec. 8, 1999, decision favoring the Central Bank.

Genbank was ordered closed in 1977 after the Central Bank declared it insolvent for its inability "to pay its liabilities."

Liquidity problems

The high tribunal stressed that the CB found Genbank "undoubtedly unable to generate liquid funds by itself in order to meet demandsarea on its deposits and deposit substitutes and to pay for other maturing obligations as well as advances from the Central Bank."

Based on the findings, Genbank's liquid assets amounted to only P11.5 million. On the other hand, its total deposit and deposit substitutes which had to be paid amounted to P2074.6 million. Its total advances from the CB amounted to P1000.8 million, of which P202 million was payable on demand.

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Bishop questions ₱1-B boost to anti-Red drive

By Lala B. Sabarerio

A ROMAN CATHOLIC BISHOP yesterday questioned the government's allocation of P1 billion to buy more equipment to fight the communist insurgency, warning that a wider war could endanger more civilian lives.

Instead, the money should be used to combat poverty, according to Calbayan Bishop Oscar Jaime Bilapan, who heads the public affairs office of the Catholic Bishops Conference of the Philippines.

Bilapan said that while he agreed that the problem of the insurgency should be solved, fighting fire with fire would not do it.

"We should remove the insurgency that is in favor of violence but ... the solution is not violence against violence," Bilapan told reporters at the Pendolon Priory anniversary at La Salle Green Hills.

Real solution

"The solution is to do what was done in the peace talks, which is to trace the roots of why there is the NPA (New People's Army) and the NDF (National Democratic Front), and that is what we should all address."

Bilapan also questioned the solution behind allocating a big amount of money to buy equipment to fight rebels.

"There such a big amount devoted to the (military) for this reason, given the state of the country," he said.

Danger to civilians

The National Statistics Office said recently that the number of unemployed workers had risen to 2.403 million from 2.191 million, even though the unemployment rate declined slightly in the area.

Bilapan expressed concern about the effects of stepped-up military operations on civilians.

"If you fight violence with violence, you will only beget violence and see how that many would be affected and endangered in the crossfire," Bilapan said.

FATHER AND DAUGHTER: PMA Class of 2010 Cadet Reyna Ventura poses for a souvenir photo with her father Usher T. Sgt. Pepe Ventura, who pins the bars here in the PMA band, during the incorporation of the class at Fort del Pilar, Baguio City.

286 new PMA cadets honor their fathers

From page A1

36 are female officer candidates.

Tougher, smarter

According to PMA officials, most of the aspiring cadets who applied for the academy's annual entrance examinations came from low- and middle-income families.

"It's common for Filipinos of this [economic standing] to look to the military as a way of alleviating their poverty," a PMA evaluation report said.

For regardless of their financial history, most of the PMA aspirants prefer to be "tough, unyielding to be tougher, smarter and more reliable than the previous batches of candidates, Salomon said.

He said the cadets' fathers were just beginning to realize the importance of their children's career choices.

Band player

Pepe Ventura is a member of the PMA brass band, where he spent 30 years of his life playing marching tunes to raise five children.

"I was always a band player. I play the bass here. I joined marching bands in my community in Tabuc, La Union, because I needed the scholarship. So we toured, and each of us got paid P1,200 for every engagement in the 1970s," he recalled.

Ventura said one of his performances caught the eye of a military recruiter, who invited him to sign up with the Army as he could play for a military marching band.

He first misgiving was to play the bass drum at Camp Capinpin in Tanay, Rizal.

But not one of his children heard a similar invitation to music.

Ventura said his eldest child, Philip, 33, was still searching for a better job.

As for Reyna, he said, she decided that the PMA was her future and forthwith quit her accountancy course in a Baguio university.

Retirement in 2010

He said his other daughters (Maria Cecilia, 31; Jennifer, 32, and Ancion Lea, 30) had chosen an inclination to follow in their elder sister's footsteps.

"I will retire in 2010 when Reyna graduates," Ventura said, adding that it would reduce the chances of a father saluting his daughter.

However, he said, he was certain that his official life and Reyna's cadet life would still be intertwined in the meantime because of his music.

The PMA band performs regularly during reunions, it serves as back up to the silent drill performances of the cadets.

Reyna and her siblings grew up at the academy and studied at the Fort del Pilar Elementary School.

"She was always around during the weekly music drills. I played the band for," Ventura said.

"She always told me she wanted to be part of the drill, so, maybe she has a chance to do something that is close to my heart also," he said.

FATHER AND SON: Incoming Cadet Christopher Tabios makes it a special day for his father Manolo.

Palparan widens military drive in Central Luzon

From page A1

Pedro Cabuay Jr., head of the Southern Luzon Command, said Mindoro Occidental "practically" would double.

"It's a matter of fact, that's my mentality: to believe that we set last year—to wipe out the communist insurgency in the Southern Tagalog and Bicol regions in the next three years," Cabuay said in a phone interview.

Lobbying lawmaker Rep. Rafael Mariano of Mindoro said his Army's move effectively killed the already moribund peace talks between government and the rebels, while ousted Communist Party of the Philippines founder Jose Ma. Sison said it showed Mr. Arroyo was suffering from "extreme signs of hysteria."

No Philippine president has succeeded in vanquishing the NPA since it was established 37 years ago. The war has claimed more than 40,000 lives in that span.

The rebels last year closed down 25 municipalities of peace talks when they declared they would rather negotiate with a new president.

Massive military presence

Palparan said that when Mr. Sison's statement—one of many heads-he-becoming, he expected to receive increased logistical support.

He said support for his troops would come in the form of improving their mobility and securing intelligence.

"I want a massive coverage of the area, hopefully to include every barangay," he said, adding that his immediate needs were pump boats and more handheld radio sets.

The food allowances of soldiers should be augmented, too, to sustain them in their activities in villages, he said.

Palparan met on Friday with officials of 44 barangays in Lubao to reassure his expanded campaign following intelligence reports that between 15 and 20 coastal villages in Lubao town were under the influence of the NPA and the leftist breakaway group Revolutionary Proletariat Movement.

More troops deployed

"[This is] more of an information drive against the evils that insurgency brings," Palparan said, adding that he was setting up temporarily detachments in the rebel-influenced villages.

Last week, Palparan deployed about 300 troops in San Fernando, Angeles and Mabalacat in Pampanga, and in Malolos, Bulacan, Olongapo, Bataan and San Mateo in Rizal province. Detachments were established in 57 villages in those areas.

In Camp Aguinaldo, General Cabuay conceded that crushing the communist opponents in the Palaro-ao river basin was a tall order but it could be done.

"If we can wipe out at least 70 percent of the NPA operations in Southern Luzon, especially in combat component, within that prescribed period, I can consider that a significant victory," the full cyan chief said.

On the run

He said his men had been inching toward that goal by assaulting enemy lairs and launching combat operations.

Since the start of this year, Cabuay said federal troops had killed 36 NPA rebels, captured 28 and caused 17 to surrender.

"My men have also overrun several NPA camps in Southern Tagalog and Bicol regions. The enemies are now always on the run," Cabuay claimed.

Not just a military problem

Army chief Lt. Gen. Hermogenes Esperon said the military would announce shortly its plans for the additional funding.

"We have a lot of needs to fill up in the AFP," said Col. Titong Kison, head of the military's public information office.

AFP spokesperson Maj. Gen. Jose Honorado said the insurgency is not only a military problem. It cannot be licked by the use of force alone."

In March, AFP Chief of Staff Gen. Generoso Senga said, explained that the military's budget was insufficient to fund its operations.

Like other government agencies, about 80 percent of the AFP's budget goes to the salaries of its 120,000 personnel. Under the proposed budget for 2006, about P40 billion is allotted for the Department of National Defense, the bulk of which is to go to the AFP.

Highly ambitious plan

Representative Mariano said Mr. Arroyo's hardline stance doomed the peace talks.

"He knows really what the door to the peaceful resolution of the armed conflict," he said in a text message.

"It is highly ambitious for Mr. Arroyo to declare the CPP-NPA and do in two years what four other regimes failed to accomplish in almost four decades," Mariano said.

Mariano said it would be cheaper for the government to get back to the peace table rather than spend a huge amount of money for war.

"The people, our Hueys and other aircraft helicopters are more decisive in the ongoing civil war. Mr. Arroyo is wasting taxpayers' money. Our war instead of addressing worsening poverty and hunger," he said.

In a statement from his exile in the Netherlands, Sison said that since the Marcos dictatorship, the Armed Forces and the police had received billions of pesos but failed to destroy the CPP and the NPA.

"Gloria M. Arroyo, the lame president, is apparently under the chains of her political ambition and is exhibiting extreme signs of hysteria by gross lukewarm that she can suppress the revolutionary movement in the next one or two years by simply providing the AFP and the PNP with more funds and arms," Sison said.

"It just and lasting peace cannot be achieved with a regime that is obsessed with seeking to destroy the revolutionary movement," he said.

Malacañang said the public was fed up with the communist insurgency.

"The people have seen enough of the threats perpetrated by the revolutionary movement through ambuscades and assassinations of civilians and acts of harassment and extortion committed against business firms," Press Secretary Ignacio Bunye said.

Bunye also said the recent killing of criminal cases against 30 men over alleged atrocities committed by the rebels were meant "to venerate the influence of [their] leaders here and abroad."

With reports from Norman Bordadora, Donna Pazzibugan and Cecil Cabuenagan Jr.

GMA . . .

From page A1

down," the problem of the armed conflict posed by the Communist Party of the Philippines and its arms, the NPA, "through clearing and holding operations and programs to defend communities, protect the people and ensure vital installations and continued access."

Sison founded the CPP in December 1968. Nine months later, in March 1969, Bernabe Buscayno (Commander Dante) and other comrades formed the CPP's armed wing, the NPA. At its founding, the NPA had less than 100 members with even fewer guns—about 35.

Peak strength

The NPA reached a peak of 25,200 members with 13,000 weapons in 1987. Latest military estimates place the NPA membership at just 7,600 fighters with some 6,000 weapons.

The first of the government's four counterinsurgency master plans was drawn up in 1981, when Marcos launched Oplan Sagittarius, a much-vaunted campaign to win hearts and minds in the countryside.

Focus on Marcos survival

In 1981, the NPA strength was at 6,060 fighters with 2,940 firearms, according to military estimates.

Instead of crushing the rebels, Kalinggas even chose more people to the insurgency, with the NPA growing to 24,408 members with 12,128 firearms in 1985.

Prof. Carolina Hernandez, in her paper "Institutional Responses to Armed Conflict: Armed Forces of the Philippines," said that Oplan Sagittarius failed because it was "focused on the defense of the state, personified in Marcos" and not really on the people's welfare, a primary consideration in national security.

Cory's plan

Following the ouster of Marcos in February 1986, the Aquino administration adopted Oplan Mamasapano, a strategy of national reconciliation and development combined on the people.

Hernandez said Mamasapano also failed because the militaries in the Aquino administration, who wanted a role in politics, prevailed.

NPA strength reached its all-time high of 25,200 members during the Aquino administration.

In 1988, Mamasapano was replaced by Oplan Lumbay Sing, a strategy that again viewed counterinsurgency as an "armed struggle."

Lumbay Sing would also be adopted by Ramos in 1992.

Victory was illusory

Using psywar, combat and socioeconomic development operations, Ramos scored several successes in the early '90s, bringing down the NPA membership to a low of 6,621 in 1993 and prompting the military to even declare a "strategic victory" over the insurgents.

But the gains proved to be temporary.

In 1998, the military noted a resurgence in DNSMW activities, with the NPA membership surging to 10,016 fighters.

PALPARAN: It's all good

SC blocks dismissal of lifestyle check 'flunker'

By Armand N. Nocum

THE SUPREME COURT has stopped the Department of Public Works and Highways from enforcing an Ombudsman order dismissing Undersecretary Salvador Phuyat, one of the first ranking officials to fall in the government's lifestyle check.

With the temporary restraining order issued by the court's first division Friday, Phuyat "gets to keep his old job for the time being," a court insider said, pending the high tribunal's public information office said.

"Acting on the urgent manifestation of the petitioner..., the court further resolves to issue a temporary restraining order enjoining the enforcement of the Department of Public Works and Highways re rebate from implementing" the dismissal order of the Ombudsman, said the two-page court order.

The Ombudsman, who ordered the dismissal of Phuyat of amassing P36.6 million worth of property, had ordered the latter's dismissal on June 28, 2004, affirming that four months later on Oct. 12, after it threw out Phuyat's motion for reconsideration.

P50,000 bond

The high court, in a resolution signed by First Division Clerk of Court Ferdinanda Pajarillo-Vidal, also ordered Phuyat to post a P50,000 cash or surety bond within five days of the issuance of the court's order.

Phuyat filed a petition for review in the Supreme Court on Oct. 25, 2005, after the Court of Appeals affirmed the Ombudsman's dismissal order following the secretary's supposed failure to explain his "frequent trips."

Failed to explain

The CA also denied Phuyat's request to be allowed to "correct/explain statements of assets and liabilities and net worth (SALN) before he denied/ he held administratively liable."

Phuyat, in a petition for review he filed earlier in the CA, said the Ombudsman had "grossly erred" when it concluded that the value of the properties he allegedly registered in the name of his wife and children was "grossly disproportionate to his lawful income."

In an earlier interview, Phuyat said the properties were not illegally acquired since his wife, Magnila, had a successful piggery, poultry and hauling business since 1993. He said they also had a flourishing trading business and pawnshop since 1995.

He said it was Magnila, not him, who acquired the real properties in Bataan by purchase, bank loans, inheritance and foreclosure in their trading business.

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The Boho Signos Fraternity is marking its 50th year as Diamond Jubilee. A week-long celebration will be held to mark the milestone, starting with an ecumenical service on July 7, 8 a.m. at UP Padre Faura in Manila, where Boho Signos was founded on July 14, 1956. The celebration will be capped by an Awards Night and Jubilee Ball on July 14 at the Wack-Wack Golf & Country Club.
For details, call fraternities at the Boho Signos Secretariat (telefax: 725-3333), or e-mail: sistarh_jubilee@yahoo.co.uk www.bohosignos4606.com
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At left, Gil Genio, CEO of Innove Communications, proudly introduces GlobeQUEST ICON, the latest innovation from his company. Above, Baltej Parmar, unites with Jhenar Cortez of GlobeSolutions, Fred Garcia of Routing Division, and Fred Maddocan of GlobeSolutions.

GlobeQUEST unveils a new ICON

GlobeQUEST, the corporate arm of Innove Communications, a wholly-owned subsidiary of Globe Telecom, launched its biggest innovation, a new and more powerful network that embodies multiple advancements in technology called the IP-Converged Optical Network, or ICON. This revolutionary new offering uses multi-protocol label switching (MPLS) and IP as its core technologies.

With the enhanced network, GlobeQUEST further expands its range of offerings and solutions for the enterprise market.

During the event, a performer displays the power and flexibility ICON readily gives to its consumers.

The Enterprise, Enlightened

Titled "The Enterprise, Enlightened," the launch series treated key company executives and IT managers to a lunch-to-dinner half-day affair.

The theme of the event likened the workings of the modern enterprise to the workings of the human body. It portrayed the advanced mind-body discipline of yoga to depict GlobeQUEST ICONs' powerful new features and benefits, providing the flexibility, resiliency and scalability that enterprises need in their networks. Thus, GlobeQUEST ICON was established as the next evolutionary step in network systems technology.

The first part of event was a series of sessions that provided in-depth information about network technologies, specifically on MPLS and IP VPN, emerging applications such as VOIP on enterprise networks, and customer case studies that showed audiences real life business situations.

While the sessions showed network infrastructures and capabilities in great detail, they also proved engaging to the audience—composed mostly of tech experts from prominent companies across different industries.

The diversity of industries the guests represented also proved illustrative of GlobeQUEST ICON's anticipated impact on the business community. With applications in industries as diverse as banking, retail and business process outsourcing, GlobeQUEST ICON is seen as a big step in the evolution of network technology—one that has the enormous potential to affect the future of even the largest organizations.

Dinner followed after the sessions, where the new network was heralded by dancers incorporating traditional yoga poses into a high-energy number. After an audio-visual presentation that outlined how GlobeQUEST's latest achievement would lead to peace of mind for any enterprise, the show yielded to a short skit which, in the true spirit of convergence, starred theater talents alongside real GlobeQUEST engineers, and head of the Enterprise Business Group, Mr. Jesus "Boboy" Romero himself.

The short demonstration proved the true highlight of the launch for the audience. Many of the viewers may even have identified closely with the star of the skit: an engineer who tested the robustness of the new network by managing transmissions of real-time traffic, such as video streams and applications. The cheerful, dependable character of an engineer—played onstage by a real-life GlobeQUEST engineer—also evoked warm laughter. Jesus Romero himself also demonstrated the fast recovery feature of GlobeQUEST ICON. The entire demonstration clearly shows and proves how the network can change the way enterprises run and implement their networks.

Cong Clemad, Head of GlobeQUEST Applications Solutions and Delivery Group, talks about the latest developments, while Jojo Mackenzie, Regional Product Manager of Avaya Singapore, gives a talk on VoIP on MPLS-Enterprise network.

By the end of the skit, guests were afforded some understanding of the new technology from a business perspective. More importantly, GlobeQUEST ICON's promise of reliability was not just made, but clearly proven.

In his message to guests, Innove Communications CEO Gil B. Genio offered a broad view of the advantages of the new network. In a release last week, Mr. Genio provided the overarching perspective: "This network enhancement has far-reaching and broad implications, resulting in a revolutionary improvement in enterprise business operations in all industries from retail to banking, manufacturing, logistics, BPOs and call centers," Mr. Genio said, ending with a statement that combined hard commitment and breathless excitement: "And this new network is now ready to serve you."

Guests from various industries and businesses listen intently as the different sessions

A short skit demonstrated the different features of GlobeQUEST ICON.

Bobby Ravnero, Head of GlobeQUEST; Jun San Juan of Philtro; Ed Ginzo, CEO of Innove; Jun Hongseng, President of Global Reach; Grace Cavallo, Head of Marketing, GlobeQUEST; and Peter Tan, Head of Data Access Network Engineering, GlobeQUEST

"This network enhancement has far-reaching and broad implications, resulting in a revolutionary improvement in enterprise businesss operations in all industries from retail to banking, manufacturing, logistics, BPOs and call centers."

Basic Holdable of Gold Group; Innovero Pam Bolendra and Innovero Director of GlobeQuest

Amy Reese of PEC with Quest Delgado of Pelcom and Cary Gonzaga of GlobeQuest

Alfredo Jun San Juan of Philtro; Anna Sapuay - Head of Sales of GlobeQUEST; and Grace Hua Xia Yida

Rodelio Cipriano of Asia United Bank; Peter Tan of GlobeQUEST; Chit Dochoso; and Belen Gaudinez of BPI

Robert Capistrado; Alberto Anonuevo and Jane Agcaoili of National Bookstore

Seated: Alex Pratizos, Porfirio Bautista, Ross Bonajons, Jason Jojo and Bayle Philippe of SPI Technologies. Standing: Genevive Sabellano of GlobeQUEST

Globe QUEST **ICON**

IP-CONVERGED OPTICAL NETWORK

Adrian Abejo, Enrique Rosales and Cesar Sunio of Export Bank.

Seated with CG Ginzo are Mideo Santos of Instem Communications; Arlou Morales of Goldenet and Rhandel Tiaoson of Globe Telecom

Ariel Peralta and Ruvel Nicerata of International Exchange Bank and Ron Tanalfonia, CEO of International Exchange Bank, Robert Gaudinez and Chito Dochoso of BPI, Eyak Ong of PCIB, and Grace Cavallo, Head of Marketing, GlobeQUEST

Left to right: Jocelyn Cabrera of SMART Telecommunications Group; Trixie Dee of GlobeQUEST; Virgil Lumangyao and Dennis dela Paz, also of SMART Telecommunications Group

Messrs. Rodelio Cipriano and Francisco Cipriano, Jr. of Asia United Bank pose with GlobeQUEST's Ronnie Andrewda

Mrs. Delo Cruz of British Telecom; Mega Ilmo Pena of GlobeQUEST and Jun San Juan of Philtro

Bobby Ravnero, Head of GlobeQUEST, and Gilbert Hontiz, Head of Product Development for GlobeQUEST during their presentation

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

OPINION

Better dead

AND THERE, FINALLY, IT ALL IS.—THE ARROYO administration's long-term survival strategy, in black and white. Surrounded by a Senate that would not die, a Supreme Court that can say No, an impeachment threat that refuses to go away and a legitimacy crisis that won't disappear, President Macapagal-Arroyo has decided to put all her political eggs in the military's basket. She has declared all-out war on the Left.

EDITORIAL

At a joint meeting of the Cabinet and regional development councils of North Luzon, the first in a series of "mega-development" planning sessions she has scheduled, the President the other day pledged to give the armed services additional funds—P1 billion, initially—to fight the communist insurgency. She also exonerated to earmark P75-billion over three years to fund development projects in North Luzon, where the Communist Party of the Philippines' New People's Army continues to operate.

On the face of it, these are legitimate objectives. Development, to recall Pope Paul VI's famous formulation, is the new name for peace. The apparent emphasis on poverty alleviation is welcome; at the same time, it would be foolish to ignore that the 37-year-old communist insurgency has a military component, and that the government has the obligation to equip our soldiery with the right arms.

But President Arroyo, true to her character, did not stop there. She expressed impatience with the current rules of security timetable for suppressing the communist insurgency: 10 years was "not long," she said. (After the meeting, Cabinet officials announced a tighter schedule of two years, at least in certain critical areas.) And then she turned the government's counter-insurgency priorities upside down. While anti-poverty programs were essential, she said, "the fight against the Left remains the glue that binds."

The glue that binds! Perhaps, she means the sticky kind that helps one keep one's grip on the levers of power. She certainly could not mean the nation's best interests, because that kind of exclusionary policy has already been proven a failure. The way to end the insurgency is not only to engage the communist rebels where they are; it is to fight them where they aren't or plumb the roots of poverty, to provide public services, to offer an alternative forum for political participation.

It is unfortunate that the President has turned her back on the humanist education she had not only learned but even taught; from her marriage point today, she blithely sees no distinction between a leftist active in politics and a communist insurgent. For her, and for those in her inner circle who think survival politics trumps all other ideals, it's back to the 1950s, when the only good Red was a dead Red.

Since Edsa 1986, however, the national government has always sought to encourage communist rebels to abandon the armed struggle; an ex-insurgent is one less enemy lurking in the hills. From this perspective, the success of leftist groups in party-list elections (to which President Arroyo contributed in both the 2001 and 2004 elections) offered proof that the policy could work.

But during President Arroyo's watch, the gates of this enlightened policy have come with increasingly prohibitive costs. Hundreds of leftist activists—legitimate participants in the post-Marcos democratic space—have been harassed, tortured or killed. Leftist leaders have been demonized; a few, granted amnesty in the aftermath of Edsa II, have found themselves facing decades-old charges. Many have heard Justice Secretary Raul Gonzalez's intemperate taunt, that they head back to the hills, and wondered about the wisdom of their choice.

In the last week, the news that soldiers under the command of Maj. Gen. Jovito Palparan have been deployed in the towns and cities of Central Luzon have sent chills down many a spine; it seems an omen of inevitable human rights violations to come.

The President's better-dead-than-Red strategy will keep the Armed Forces happy, at least occupied. That is what she must have meant; the strategy is the glue that binds the commander in chief closer to the military.

Father's Day

SEPARATE OPINION

Isagani A. Cruz

THIS TIME, IT'S FATHER'S DAY AGAIN. Some weeks ago, it was Mother's Day and the loyal children trooped to the malls to demonstrate their love for the greatest Mom in the world. Alone it's Dad's turn to be remembered, and they're not going to allow you to forget it.

Why, hasn't Congress declared it a holiday? They are the people behind all those celebrations. Those are the money-grubbing opportunists who will play on the people's emotions—especially the unselfish workers who regularly and religiously remit to the coop agencies including those from Singapore—to make a buck.

Don't get me wrong. I'm not one to downgrade the virtues of parents, being one myself. I know how great we are. I agree that we are really saintly guys and deserve the adoration of our children, but I don't like being used by the Tradelink to sell their goods for Junior's allowance.

Seriously, I do have respect for the parents who still sacrifice everything for their children's welfare. I refer particularly to the not-so-prosperous ones who will skimp on their own pleasures to pay their children's tuition fees. There are millions of these heroes who are willingly if not painfully improving the quality of succeeding generations.

In fact, the splendid role of mothers in the rearing of their children has been officially recognized in the United States since its designation in 1914 of the second Sunday of May as Mother's Day. "This is the busiest day of the year for American restaurants. On this special day, family members do not want their Mom to cook dinner."

The movement to similarly honor fathers in that country began in 1910 and Father's Day was officially designated in 1972 as the third Sunday in June. On this day children are urged to "take some time to thank your Dad and let him know how inspiring he has been to you." They're not just the big spenders who take you to the ball games and buy you your first long pants.

Contrasts to parents should be more obvious in our country where family ties are stronger than in most other lands. Unlike in some more practical but less affectionate foreign homes, Filipino children are not asked to leave upon reaching adulthood and fend for themselves without their parents' guidance and assistance.

I once talked to a girl in a foreign country who said she was asked by her parents to vacate their house when she had grown up so they could rent her room to a paying boarder. On the other hand, others consider this humane and believable. In our country parents take care of their children—and their children's children, too—as long as they can, in keeping with our paternalistic ethos.

That is why when they can no longer take care of themselves, their children take over and care for them until they die. This is a duty lovingly and gratefully performed in consideration of their parents' earlier selflessness. They are simply repaying love with love. The home for the aged, so convenient a dumping ground for unwanted parents in other countries, is not a Filipino institution.

As far as I know, Father's Day and Mother's Day are not officially recognized in our country by either statutory enactment or executive proclamation. They are merely imitations of the American practice, including even the days they are celebrated. We might at least choose different days for such observance if only to pretend to some originality. But I suppose it is difficult to cut the apron strings of Mother America and pick our own love days out of the 365 days in the year to honor our fathers and mothers.

Only recently, we began our own "Filipino Idol" contest patterned after the immensely popular "American Idol." Last year, we had a Tagalog movie called "Philippine Idol" along the lines of "American Idol," another imitation. We also elected an unpopular President Macapagal-Arroyo like the unpopular President Bush, so it's prose that we are also fortunate in our stupidity.

Many of our people tend to imitate everything about the United States, the good as well as the hardly worthwhile. Even as our admirers Jefferson and Lincoln, we are also enthralled by the liberal license now using Tom Cruise. I understand that many people voted for the imminent blockbuster for the American President even as Tom Cruise was running from Brooke Shields to Cuete than Laura Laguda.

Most Americans observe Father's Day and Mother's Day by sharing festive meals with their honorees in the home for the aged where they have been exiled. We are past, we celebrate the practice of our affection by having these gifts from the monetary mills as tokens of our remembrance. This generosity is not recognized and encouraged by the govern's moral but is only closely induced by facebook advertising. The cost is reasonable to more persons and celebrants.

On this Father's Day our children will not know what to give me because I have everything I need. The most important of these is the love they have for their Mother and me, which is the best gift they can offer.

Giving

MOMENTS

Fr. Jerry M. Orbos, SVD

A TEXT MESSAGE I RECEIVED SITE THAT the United Nations recently conducted a survey requesting the respondents to "please give your honest opinion about shortage of food in the rest of the world." According to the same text message, the survey failed because in Africa, the people did not know what "food" was; in China, they did not know what "opinion" was; in Europe, they did not know what "shortage" was; in France, they did not know what "please" was; in America, they did not know what the "rest of the world" means; and in the Philippines, Filipino leaders did not know what "honest" means.

* * *

Today is the Solemnity of the Corpus Christi. In today's Gospel (Mk. 14, 12-16, 22-26), Jesus gives His body and blood to be shared for many. Unless and until we imbibe the Eucharistic spirit of giving, sharing, unity and love, we will never have true and lasting peace in the world. After all these years, we haven't quite learned that giving is what living is all about. Are you a giver? What have you given, what are you giving to Him you'll?

* * *

There are people whose main preoccupation in life is to have more, and the taking is never-stops. There's so much money stored in banks for safekeeping, while a lot of people are dying of hunger. How much money does one need to be happy in this life? When does one say "enough"? Does one ever say "enough"?

* * *

Happy Father's Day! to the fathers happy others He looks at us today? Perhaps, if we remember that we have a Father in heaven who provides and takes care of us, we His children will not lose heart, become anxious, quarrelsome, less selfish. We have a giving Father. We have to learn to trust Him more and not to lean on the security symbols of this world.

* * *

I understand that, today, all fathers will have one big day off, as they are not cooking, washing dishes, doing the laundry, or doing the marketing today. Kidding aside, we salute all fathers who do a thousand and one things for the sake of the family but, there are fathers, too, who do a thousand and one things that hurt their families. Those are fathers who have not learned to give up their ways and personal joys. May we have more fathers who not only provide, but who also guide and stay by their children's side.

* * *

There are fathers who father children, but are not a father to them. It is sad that there are children who have never seen their fathers, or have never experienced the love of a father. His note: A father is not just a biological donor, but also a person with honor; not just a financial provider, but also a living presence and reminder.

Don't forget that June 11 is the Feast of the Sacred Heart. Why not a feast of the sacred heart? Or sacred power? That's because God, the supreme intelligence and power, chose to relate to us with love through His heart. To people who operate and relate with others mainly through their brains, or through their pockets, you are running the point if you hold the heart and matters of the heart.

* * *

June 10, 1967 was the day when my father died. It was such a sad and painful day in my life. I still do miss him. The pain is never really gone. I look forward to meeting him and celebrating him again after my earthly mission is done. In the meantime, you and I who have had a loved one must go on, and carry on the good name and the good things our fathers have done. While there is pain, there are no regrets in my heart for my father. I think of my father often because I really loved him, and I really did my best for him while he was still alive. I say this not with pride, but with all humility, and with deep gratitude to my father whom I respect and love so much.

* * *

June 24 is the feast of the immaculate heart of Mary. May every single woman model on that the Father is pleased with His children who have pure, simple, loving, gentle and generous hearts. If the Father looked at your heart today what would He see? Would He smile, or would He shake His head in dismay?

* * *

Today, Fathers' Day, please find time to pray also for us your priests whom you call "Father." It is a big honor and big responsibility to be called by such a title. On this Solemnity of Corpus Christi, are your priests are reminded to live lives that are filled with giving and thanksgiving. I take this opportunity, on behalf of all my brother priests, to thank you all who have been so giving to us and so supportive of our priestly ministry. Maraming salamat po, with our priestly blessing!

* * *

Bantay Matandes meet by forum is on June 24 at the Lasuen Hall of Christ the King Mission Seminary. It will be about "Updates in Dementia Care" and will offer free screening tests for Alzheimer's Disease as well. For details please call 373 2262 or 0917-8167895.

* * *

I am not with the Lord.
Lord, remind me that true living is in the giving. Amen.

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Notes on East Timor

REVEILLE

Ramon J. Farolan

SEEK FROM IRAQ AND AFGHANISTAN. TWO countries that have been going through a daily dose of car bombings these past few weeks, another country—this one much closer to home—has been engulfed in violence with residents being attacked and forced to leave their homes by lawless elements wielding guns and machetes, and roaming around, torching and looting neighborhoods in the capital city of Dili.

East Timor is the eastern half of the island of Timor which was colonized by Portuguese in the 16th century. The western half was controlled by the Dutch. At the end of World War II, the Dutch were driven out of Indonesia, and West Timor became part of the Republic of Indonesia. Somehow, the Portuguese were able to hold on to East Timor for another 30 years. In 1975, with the Lisbon government in disarray following the overthrow of dictator Antonio Salazar, Indonesia moved into East Timor, and President Suharto proclaimed the island to be Indonesia's 27th province.

When I visited Portugal in Autumn in 1986, Benny and I made it a point to visit as much of the country as possible. On one occasion, we flew to Aceh in Sumatra, Indonesia's western most province and a strong bastion of Islam. It is also one of the country's most troubled provinces.

Nine days in Aceh is the home of the Bataks—a happy, fun-loving, lively people given to music with a Polynesian flavor. They are the complete opposite of the reserved, quiet folks on the main island of Java. The current crown is Manila, famous for its fun-loving, at times, rowdy inhabitants. However, I might add that Ms. Arroyo is more Javanese than Batak.

On the invitation of President Suharto, we visited East Timor at the eastern end of the archipelago. The occasion was a visit by the governor. The first was the inauguration of the Catholic Cathedral in Dili, known as the Immaculate in honor of Our Lady of the Immaculate Conception. He owned and was the opening of the Sukarno Hall by Sister Imelda Marcos.

TALK of the TOWN

Please send feedback to: yourviews@inquirer.com.ph

Edna Juan Y. Sarmiento Jr.

How much is human life worth?

GIVING A MONETARY VALUE TO A PERSON'S LIFE IS NOT AS EASY AS PUTTING A price tag on a cell phone, a car or any other consumer product. But certain occasions demand that a price be set. A court could award P50,000 to the loved ones of a crime victim, while an insurance company could pay the heirs of a policyholder P500,000 or more, depending on the monthly premiums that the deceased had paid.

In Congress, a group of legislators is pushing that the families of the desaparecidos and those killed arbitrarily by the Marcos regime be compensated at least P1 million each.

From the viewpoint of the Catholic Church, life is priceless.

Parsing a monetary value on one's life came to the fore after Chief Justice Artemio Panganiban said that Leo Echegaray should not have been executed but instead cut life imprisonment. This prompted Sen. Agapito Aquino Jr. to suggest that the government compensate Echegaray's family between P5 million and P10 million for the "wrongful death."

Echegaray was the first to be executed by lethal injection in 1999 after the Supreme Court affirmed his death sentence. Congress recently repealed the death penalty law.

Insurance sets lifetime value

By Elvin H. Yardan

IDEAL HOMEWORKERS TAKE IN 'TODAY' of the human body's chemical composition, the typical human being would be worth around 98 US cents, or roughly P48, at the current rate of exchange. This materialistic point-system computes the bulk of the human body.

If you asked the children of a typical 10-plus family how much their parents are worth? "We would probably be out with some shouts, or a look that says, "What are you, a retard?"

Human life, of course, is priceless, its value cannot be quantified in coins, notes, or even in terms of the almighty greenback.

But for professionals in the life insurance industry, especially those who are selling policies, human life has to have an economic value.

Because a life insurance policy is nothing else but a promise to pay a predetermined amount to the beneficiaries of the insured, when he leaves this life for the next, or the well, when she reaches a certain age (for whole life policies), it is easily age old.

How is this amount arrived at? How much life protection is to be bought, sold, and how will this amount computed? What is a person's economic value?

Needs

Financial planners apply various approaches, and most of the time common is the so-called "needs" or financial needs analysis. Depending on your financial planner (or to use a less high-tech term, life insurance agent), he or she may give you initial lengthy survey to arrive at your financial needs, probing and asking you questions like probably even your spouse doesn't ask you before.

In simple terms, the PSA does nothing less severe in the guy between what you need to cover all eventualities (premature death, old age, sickness, disability ... and if you're lucky, living to 'Family Feud' dinner!) and what you have to protect.

The gap, more often than not, can be sufficiently covered by a life insurance policy. See, life insurance is one of the most inexpensive ways to do it, unless you live to the ripe age of 120 years!

Let's go back to the question, what is a person's economic value? To be more precise, what is a person's lifetime economic value?

A quick way to determine a person's economic value ... for insurance purposes, anyway ... is to determine how much one is economically and mortality that by a factor of five! (Ignoring inflation), or by a factor of eight or 10 (providing for inflation). So let's say that a manager in Ayala, Makati, let's call her Jo, is earning P600,000 a year.

An agent who is in a hurry to insure her millions going through the more complicated IPVA, may tell her that she will need a lump sum coverage of between P3 million to P6 million, depending on the agent's assessment of Jo's capacity to pay (or affordability level).

Another patient way is the so-called income replacement method. How much of your existing gross household expenses, net of savings and any amount you'll give to your family (or dependents), if something happened to you? In the case of Jojo, because she is the provider of her marriage, or P600,000, gives her family's annual expenses. What potential expenses, if she adds a bank as a new dependent, would yield P600,000 a year or roughly P40,000 a month for her family? Simple.

If the current average yields is say, 12 percent per annum, ten just divide P5,000,000 by 0.12 (percentage expressed in decimals), and we get P41,000,000 the principal amount that Jojo's beneficiaries would have to deposit in the bank to get the P40,000 a month that the late Jojo used to provide.

Typical manager

The P3 million, P42 million to even P5 million is not the lifetime economic value of Jojo, assuming that she is even typical middle, former and hardworking professional manager. Because a hardworking middle, former and hardworking manager earning simple (not a head vendor of books, mind you), Jojo would probably be given a salary increase of at least 5% per annum (she can't or say that she decides to retire at age 60, she would have worked for 25 years between now and her retirement).

Starting these P5 years, she would have had an average annual between P5 .15 million, or a round P30.15 million, much more than the P6 million that was taken under consideration.

But let us assume that Jojo decides to retire not at age 60, but at age 55. She shall have worked another 15 years, and not 25 years, as we analyzes. Therefore her lifetime economic value is simply only P22.7 million. Small wonder providers fix their 75 years), right? Wrong.

Best seller

Let's fast forward to the future: Jojo, after retiring at age 56, decides to write about her experience as a successful career in the corporate in a book titled, "Memoirs of a Survivor in the Dark Animal Corporate Jungle," which becomes a best-seller, earning her P800,000 a year in royalties (including foreign sales), at age 60, she has already earned P1 million from that book alone, incidentally.

So now she has two sources of earning: her salary, "Time to move forty—and forty" and another ... And she has, to the consternation of the above statements, that she decides to lend her life insurance, which she declares will be the Lotteries group for P800 million at age 55 ... and so on. On the contrary, she reached a rich American widow who left her at CHF 1 billion in Swedish, who owns their global companies and is worth one-tenth of what Bill Gates is worth (a roughly $50 billion.)

So what is Jojo's lifetime economic value? Go your favorite calculator, and figure it out for yourself.

(Yardan is currently self-employed. If I really, a life insurance company, and a director of the Leading Edge Forum for Excellence, a nonprofit group involved in book publishing and seminars. He also writes plays.)

Law awards P50,000 to heirs of crime victim

By Cito Mascariñas and Gino Sandoval

LIKE MY BUDDY'S BEHAVED AC-ting the discussion on the death penalty landed on the front pages of the leading dailies when Chief Justice Artemio Panganiban's statement that the Supreme Court may have erred in sending Leo Echegaray to death row.

A pertinent question that crops up in the discussion, a question which in both practical and philosophical terms is perennial choice, is "what is the value of human life?" We register at the thought that was his correspondent on a monetary value.

Misconceptions

Misconceptions arise from the questionmany times, people, influenced by various interests and subconscious associated with the death penalty, often another environment. It is what we like.

The law, to a certain extent, may be the source of this folly. In the matter, it must be noted that the law does not put a value on life. However, certain laws and their application through court decisions seem to suggest otherwise. Israel, a great degree of classification is in order.

Discussion, in law parlance, lawyers are supervalued by various individuals, ordinarily bewildered and tacked, who ask the question, "Attorney, is it true that his valuable is only worth P50,000 somewhere?" A supposedly drawn should respond in the negative and explain. How?

Under the law, there are two kinds of liability, one is criminal and the other is civil.

Liability

Criminal liability refers to the penalty that the law prescribes for the commission of a crime or a violation of a law, regulation or ordinance.

Civil liability, on the other hand, refers to the responsibility of one person to answer which the law imposes upon a person for his breach of duty or violation of a right of another. Civil liability for death arises for those caused by a crime or a quasi-delict. A quasi-delict refers to the fault or negligence of a person or his failure to exercise due care and diligence that is normally required of him, which results in other damaged victim.

In the last month now, P50,000, a third of the price of your average plasma TV, is the amount of indemnity awarded for the death of a victim of a crime or a victim of a quasi-delict.

But that if we are assessing the value of a person's life. Under Article 100 of the Revised Penal Code, the civil liability arising from a crime includes restitution, reparation of the damage caused, and indemnification for consequential damages.

None of the foregoing applies the assignment of a monetary value to life. It is all, each in its own way, a way to compensate, for certainly life cannot be restored or repaired. Thus, other accounts, like fair of income, are reasonably under the law. Factors considered in determining these damages include the life expectancy of the deceased or benefiting the primary, loss to the plaintiff or beneficiary, loss of support, loss of society, loss to society, and mental anguish of the plaintiff or beneficiary, and medical and funeral expenses.

Not for profit

The law merely attempts to compensate the heirs of the victim and does not pretend that a monetary award will replace the loss of a loved one. For the same reason, the indemnity for loss of life is limited to the minimum amount required because the law does not intend that the heirs of the victim are supposed to profit from the death of their loved one.

It is pure simple calculation for many to conclude to criminals and those that it is better to pay two hundred thousand for the instant death because the courts will only require one to pay a fixed amount of P50,000.

What, by insisting that the victim owes, the indemnity award to be an accident and actually becomes a crime requiring the prosecution to investigate.

One claims to be merely civilly liable as far as he or she also becomes criminally liable for homicide or murder, depending on the circumstances.

Second, such a regular system deliberately ignores certain other circumstances that may be claimed by the victim's family such as loss of income and funeral expenses, and, to these days, hospitals are not cheap.

While the law itself has failed to put an economical measure on life, it certainly illustrates that we can never come close to ascribing a monetary value to it.

(Manuel de Leon Jr. and Sandoval are members of the Dorothy Stallcup Fellowship, law firm. They can be reached at 8188xxx@yahoo.com)

Priceless

By Fr. Roberto A. Labarro, S.T.D.

THE LIFE OF A HUMAN PERSON IS a precious, and even human being with the light of reason and good will recognizes this as an unquestionable value.

The Christian perspective on the inestimable value of human life, however, is grounded on new teachings. That every person's life is a special gift from God and that God has created us for transcendent purposes.

Human life, which begins at the moment of conception, is a divine gift. As the first man's Yahwehists on Genesis the Human, calls us his Creator and we the Human, "formation" succinctly puts it: "Human life is sacred because from its beginning it involves the creative action of God and it remains forever in a special relationship with the Creator, who is its destination."

The book of Genesis reinforces this already great reality. God did not only create man, He created human dignity because image and likeness—a superior distinction that gives man dominion and stewardship over other creatures. From this, we can conclude that man is the only creature God has created for His own sake, not for the sake of another value.

We can even go one step that man is the highest value on earth, although not in an absolute sense—a superior distinction that. There may be realities we value more—like life itself such as honor, faith and other ideals. We may also accept the inevitability of death when facing a condition that undermines our greatest love such as life. But no man can accept the total corruption of ending a human being's journey to the hope of God. Human life belongs to God—it is "sacred."

Each and every person must be treated with a unique consideration of God. We are all special in God. Hence, with the gift of human life comes a specific vocation, a calling, a purpose, which God has destined for each person. To achieve man's purpose, God also bestows numerous graces and potentials...all priceless in themselves as well—again made individual.

It is in fulfilling God's will that man can live a life that gives glory to God. As in the parable of the talents, God wishes our lives to be well spent, with all our faculties and talents utilized for love of Him. Of course, each one has his own circumstances, but giving glory to God is generally achieved by using the best of one's faculties for a noble work—be it as simple as a school assignment or as crucial as an executive officer's job.

As a precious gift, life has to be preserved. It is not to be considered risk in the course of self-preservation because it is sacred and sanctus. But the preservation of life goes well beyond preventing assault. It extends to the prevention of the lives of others too. ...from the moment of conception up to natural death...and to preventing their illegal acts/accidents of God.

Why should I value the life of others? Because as much as I value other persons (including their life), that much do I value my own life. Love of neighbor is an echo to the greater one toward God.

Let me end with the words by late Pope John Paul II in his Encyclical Letter on the Value and Inviolability of Human Life: "Man is enjoined as a follower of his who first exercised the dimensions of his earthly existence, because it consists in sharing the life of God."

Ultimately, our life has a meaning as long as a child of God and as heir to the Kingdom of Heaven. And this is something that no monetary value can ever match.

(Labarro is a doctor in social theology and teaches at the University of San Carlos Cebu.)

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WHAT'S INSIDE

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Volcanic ash kills town river

SORSOGON CITY—A RIVER IN BULAN TOWN HAS BEEN declared biologically dead by specialists from the Environmental Management Bureau Bicol office because of the huge volume of ash and sulfur that found its way into the body of water.

Engineer Rich Frias of EMB-Bicol said the water quality of the Buang-galong River deteriorated due to ash and sulfur deposits carried over by the rain.

"This sedimentation disabled oxygen to exist and to live," she said.

She, however, said that the water quality would eventually return to normal as the contaminants are being eliminated.

The 1980 report was presented before the Regional Disaster Coordinating Council which assessed the disaster preparedness of the municipal and provincial disaster councils.

Raul police director Victor Boco, RDCC head, said the disaster councils had made ample preparations to save the lives of the communities to be affected by Bulusan Volcano's eruption.

The SDCC regional police, Office of the Civil Defense and the local government unit of Irosin also conducted yesterday an evacuation at Brgy. Barangay Cogon in Irosin.

Irosin Mayor Lilia Gonzales said the drill was meant to prepare the residents for a major eruption.

She added they also used a bell and a number of vehicles to help signal the residents in evacuation.

In Guiguinto, Bulacan, Lafayette Philippines Inc. donated 5,000 pieces of face masks to foreign countries.

Lawyer Julito Sarmiento, Lafayette's corporate secretary and spokesperson, personally went to the municipality to distribute 500 pieces of face masks to the Provincial Disaster Coordinating Council.

He said he would bring 4,500 more pieces for distribution to the towns of Guiguinto, Balagtas, Pulilan, Malolos, the fire department of Tarlac City and several towns in Bulacan.

The LPI official said that despite the fact that the mining firm, it still wants to clarify on what else they could do to help the residents, especially those affected by Mt. Bulusan's continued activity. Bobby Labadan and Wilbe Jesse C. Oviedo, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

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ROUNDUP

Bicol project in Davao

DAVAO CITY — Officials of Barangay 1-A in Bunawan District here are requesting P20 million from the Department of Environment and Natural Resources for the implementation of a bigger project that stands to benefit at least 5,000 residents.

Village chief Edgar Ibagos said the project could be completed in five years once the river rehabilitation. Ibagos said he said several residents of Ibagos have the rising cost of liquefied petroleum gas that is used to the city to at least P140 per 11-kg cylinder. Under the proposal, a biogas digester would be constructed in the village. The gas will then be used in houses in the village.

Judy Ramos, PDI Mindanao Bureau

Hunt for killer ordered

COTABATO CITY — Maguindanao Gov. Andal Ampatuan ordered the police to launch a manhunt against the perpetrators of Saturday's ambush in Datu Unsay town, where suspension of the Maguindanao Electric Cooperative (Magelco), chief, Ampatuan also ordered the military to help as the perpetrators could be positioned immediately. The armed persons after the ambush, identified as 10 police men, posted a car owned by Magelco as it was traversing Barangay Ipanagkamporong in Datu Unsay, Maguindanao and ran over Engineer Flavio Pagulat was instantly killed while one driver, Engineer Marcelino was injured. Magelco manager Bo Dalondon said the victims were in inspection tour when ambushed.

Charlie C. Ramos, PDI Mindanao Bureau

Bolder robberies

DIGOS CITY — Police in Davao del Sur have become bolder, police said. On Tuesday morning, three armed suspects held up businessman Lucindo Cordite, 47, in the crowded business district here. Cordite had just come out from a bank after withdrawing P129,000 when the suspects held him up. They took her money and disappeared in the crowd. Chief Inspector Oscar Tabuñar, city police chief, said they believed the same suspects are responsible for the other robberies committed in the city. He said the police were working double time to catch up the members of the group, which victimized businessmen.

Edith S. Regalado, PDI Mindanao Bureau

Funeral parlor owner shot

LUCBAN, Laguna — Funeral parlor owner was seriously hurt after allegedly being shot by a businessman on June 11, police said. Felimon Mendoza of Barangay Ibabang Dupay in Lucban, Quezon, is in bullet wounds he sustained for surgery at the San Pablo Medical Center. A police report identified the suspect as Cesar Dollar of Barangay Bayang Palina. In the town investigators, who considered an enmity and an accusation as the motive behind the June 11 (sic) shooting incident, said a major lifting have occurred between the victim and suspect.

Romulo C. Flores, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

3 held for shabu

CALAMBA CITY — Police raided another suspected "shabu" den in Lumban, Laguna and arrested three people, including an alleged big time drug dealer, early Wednesday morning, Supt. Rolando Villanueva, chief of the city's special operations group, said a tipsoff were suspected drug dealer Nestor Arevalo, 31, Edwin Dimaala, 43, and his daughter, Raquel Dimaala, 20. Villanueva said Dimaala's wife, Remedios, student union of Villanueva said Arevalo and Dimaalas were the biggest suppliers of shabu in the town and how the arrest of Lapuz. "Lumban is now the biggest drug hub in this region. Drug pushers in the area can sell a little of shabu to out there," Villanueva said. Arevalo was interrogated.

Marlon Ramos, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

Village chief nabbed

LEGAZPI CITY — Agents of the National Bureau of Investigation in Bicol and Manila on Wednesday arrested two persons, including a barangay captain, in simultaneous raids in Daraga City and Bacacay, Camarines Sur for possession of banned drugs and firearms. NBI regional director Ricardo Diaz, who led the four-hour raiding teams, identified the suspects as Raul Nicolas, a barangay captain of Barangay Bonot in Daraga City, and Nicolas' brother, Rolando, said Rolando Pangit, chief of Barangay 164, Gran Bago City. Victor Lorenzo Rosales and Jaime Bandoja Jr. The suspects were arrested in the police operations and confiscated equipment in their residence to wish Bicol of operating firearms.

Ephraim Agcaoili, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

Power co-op told to refund P3B to consumers

By Hector P. Borges Jr.
PDI Visayas Bureau

ILOILO CITY—THE ENERGY Regulatory Commission (ERC) has ordered the Panay Electric Company (Peco) to refund its consumers nearly P3 billion in overcharges.

In a 13-page order dated June 9, the ERC ordered Peco to start the refund of P2,888,220,798 in the next billing period from receipt of the order until the full amount is paid.

Peco is the sole power distributor of the 160 barangays at Iloilo City. It has around 40,000 consumers.

Peco had assured Salvador Hontanosas and they have not received a copy of the order and would still have to go into the details.

But he told the business that they have not collected unauthorized charges from their consumers.

He added that the amount collected from generation charges are remitted to their power suppliers in the purchase of electricity it distributes to its consumers.

The ERC also directed Peco to submit within 10 days from its initial implementation of the refund a sworn statement indicating Peco's compliance with the order and its refund scheme.

The power firm was also ordered to reflect the refund separately in the monthly bill of consumers and to submit an implementation report to the ERC before the end of January starting next year until the refund is completed.

The order was signed by ERC Chair Rodolfo Albano and Commissioners Jesus Alcantara, Alejandro Barin and Oland Tan.

In its order, the ERC said refund scores zero-economic for 114 months from February 1996 to October 1999 and from November 1999 to July 2005.

The ERC said Peco over-collected P2,687,306,478 from its consumers because it charged a higher power cost charge, or the cost of purchasing power from the Panay Power Corp. (PPCL). Peco's sole power provider.

The power purchased agreement (PPA) between Peco and PPC provided that its power cost should be equal to or less than that of the National Power Corp., the commission said in its order.

Peco also converted philippine currency-costs data sales resulting in an overcharge of P3,159,534.

The ERC, then called the Energy Regulatory Board, had ordered Peco on Feb. 14, 1999 to refund its consumers P641,381,20 for overcharges from October 1992 to January 1995.

The ERB earlier said some of the expenses should be excluded from the generation charge calculated by Peco from its consumers because there were "not directly related to the production or distribution of power and do not redound to the benefit of consumers." The expenses include advertising, public donations, representation and profit sharing.

The case stemmed from a case filed by lawyer Romeo Gerochi charging Peco with collecting unauthorized expenses through its generation charges since 1989.

Gerochi also accused Peco of overcharging its consumers by picking up its generation cost and including expenses not related to the generation of electricity.

HARVEST in Mauseing, Ilagan, Isabela beat the receding heat of the sun as they carry harvested corn to a stroller on May 23. As school opening approaches, farmers work double time to earn income to send their children to school.

CSC fires Pampanga gov't worker over tampered time records

CITY OF SAN FERNANDO—GOVernment workers, be honest with your daily time records (DTRs).

A top official in the provincial government of Pampanga got the axe from the Civil Service Commission in Central Luzon when she submitted two DTRs for July 2004.

The first showed she was present from July 14-16. The second, also for the same dates, said she was in sick leave. On those days, however, she was abroad.

Then, she filed a vacation leave when the correct leave, for at least five days before finishing the foreign trip. Correcting this, she filed a sick leave instead but neither she nor a member of her family was ill during the leave period.

Who did CSC Regional Director Karin Lily Zarate make of these?

It is a decision issued on June 5, Elena Isaac Lule (Singapore), provincial general services officer, guilty of dishonesty and conduct prejudicial to the best interest of the service.

As a penalty, she ordered illegible dismissed from the service. She also fastened the officer's retirement benefits, canceled her eligibility and disqualified her from any government work. All sequences was ordered for one year.

Zarate also advised the provincial government to adopt a modern time keeping system for all its officials and employees, possibly a fail-safe palm-scanning time recorder.

The reputed uses a handy clock that marks the date and time when a card is slipped into it. Then, the card owner affixes his or her signature to attest truth to those data. Only one card per day is required to load eight hours of work.

Macapagal-Arroyo said the government is pushing the agribusiness potential of North Luzon under her administration's drive to establishing "super regions" in the country.

The President, during her visit in Isabela on Friday, said she would sign an executive order outlining the boundaries of the development areas and mechanisms to further enhance economic development and productivity in the regions.

Reports said the Arroyo administration has identified four super regions that would be eyed for investment and development areas. These are: North Luzon (which covers Regions 1, 2 and the Cordillera Administrative Region, including the provinces of Aurora and Nueva Ecija), Metro Luzon (Regions 3, 4A and Metro Manila), Central Philippines (Regions 4B, 5, 6, 7 and 8) and Mindanao (Regions 9 to 13 and the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao).

Economic Planning Secretary Romulo Neri said the investment areas in the Bicol, Cagayan Valley and Cordillera are near the markets in China and Taiwan through the Laoag International Airport in Ilocos Norte.

During her visit, Ms Arroyo opened the P287.9-million Dalig-Isabela bridge in Jones town. The bridge, which took six years to complete, was named after President Jose Rello Bridge in honor of Jones' former mayor and Isabela senatorial candidate.

The President also went to the Isabela State University in Echague town to open the President Diosdado Macapagal Cyber Library.

At least 26 students, who elderly illed themselves as members of the League of Filipino Students, stormed the Mrs Arroyo and held a picket rally in front of the HU main gate, about 20 meters from the facility.

The students, however, failed to see the President as the president to the university amphitheater, about 300 meters away.

The students refused to enter the university gates but were turned back by policemen. Hillomar Pinaya Jr. and Melvin Guerero, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau

Who did CSC Regional Director Karin Lily Zarate make of these?

official screamed from an anonymous complaint, which alleged that department heads of the provincial government "travel abroad almost every month."

"Their lifestyle is not commensurate to their salary. They do not file their leave of absence," the complainant said.

A CSC special audit team investigated and confirmed the filing by delinquent of two DTRs.

In an answer, Magsanoc admitted the mistakes but said these were "in no way borne by deliberate nor any unlawful cause." The DTRs, she claimed, were prepared by two of her staffers. But Zarate said this task should not be delegated to someone else.

The CSC director also cited the civil service rule on government office hours. It states: "Rehabilitation or irregularities in the keeping of time records will render the guilty officers or employees administratively liable without prejudice to criminal prosecution as the circumstances warrant."

She added: "After all her two decades of government service, Alingasaw should have known what was right and expected of her as an employee and now, as a department head, at very least, as far as truthfully and faithfully keeping hours of work on the prescribed form is concerned."

Rosario Ocampo, PDI Central Luzon Desk

GMA tags North Luzon as 1 of 4 'super regions'

Mayor seeks justice for slain bodyguard, 2 men

TUGUEGARAO MAYOR JIMMY Ting yesterday led the call for justice for the murder of a former policeman and two civilians and the attempted murder of a young boy a month ago.

In a press statement, Ting said he ordered authorities to conduct a thorough investigation of the killing of his personal bodyguard, Pedro Gotiaoting, the murder of civilians Candido Macawadiso, 71, former Brgy. 41, and the attempted murder of Kevin, a 7-year-old son of Gotiaoting.

Senior Supt. James Andrew Wahid, Cagayan police chief, has already directed his men to establish the motive behind the crime and identify the masterminds.

Macawadiso, the boy and Gotiaoting died on the spot while the young boy is reported in critical condition in an undisclosed hospital.

"We demand justice for the killing of our father and his friends" said Jerry Macawadiso, son of one of the victims.

Ting urged other law enforcement agencies and the Philippine National Police's Regional Command to join forces in the investigation.

Wahid said the four victims had just attended a Funeral Mass and were waiting to join the march in front of a chapel when four men in a Nissan Sentra (RCP 715) appeared from behind and smashed them on May 10 at around 8 a.m.

One of the suspects drew the revolver, using an M-16 Armalite rifle.

Ting urged the Cagayan police to put up a 24-hour police detachment.

He vowed to extend assistance to the victims and their families.

Book planned to essay Kapampangan spirit

CITY OF SAN FERNANDO—A P1-million book project on the experiences of the Kapampangans during the Mt. Pinatubo disaster was launched on Thursday on the 15th anniversary of the 1991 eruptions, to arm the next generations with lessons to deal with similar natural trouble.

The Luzon Group of Companies (LGC), Pampanga Heritage Foundation (PHF) and the Society of Pampanga Columnists (SPC) are putting together the book that would be released on June 15, next year.

Speaking on radio station dzrh of LGC Chair Levy Lanuzo said he called for contributions of photographs, stories and memorabilia from residents who were through those life-threatening times.

Of the three provinces that experienced the wrath of the volcano, Pampanga would be the first to put the human drama of the crisis in words and pictures, Lanuzo said. The province is on the eastern side of the volcano straddling the Zambales mountain range.

Triumph of spirit

Editor Dondu ...among them "Pico and Pinf" by the Philippine Institute of Volcanology and Seismology and the University of Washington Press, and "Politics of Labor" by Dr. Edwin Bodet Jr., earthen the scientific and technical aspects and political dimensions of the disaster, the worst in the world in the second half of the 20th century.

PHF's Dave Almonte and SPC's Cookie Lacson, the editor, said the book would be woven around the theme "triumph of the Kapampangan spirit."

It will chronicle the prelude to the blasts, the anxiousness by the United States bases at Clark Air Base, the June 15 climactic eruptions and the succeeding lahar onslaught.

The book will also talk about the engineering interventions and relief and resettlement efforts in the aftermath of the eruptions and the struggle for survival by the Kapampangans and Aetas.

Lanuzo proposed to put a lot of photographs to help future generations visualize the magnitude of the disaster and the grief it caused on a province that used to be ahead of Cebu in economic terms.

Unity

Almost drawn on to leave, Pampanga was saved by the unity of the Kapampangans who fought off gloom by the national government to consign the province to burial by lahar or relocate the entire population to Mindanao, Mayor Oscar Rodriguez, a representative at that time, recalled during the launch.

The city on June 15 observed the "Mount Pinatubo Commemorative Day." Executive Order No. 117, signed by Rodriguez on June 9, set aside every 15th of June for that event.

"The acts of self-denial and unity of the Kapampangans against the onslaught of lahar, and their resiliency and capability to face disaster and bounce back need to be remembered and enshrined in the consciousness of every Kapampangan," the order said. Tonette Orejas, PDI Central Luzon Desk

DRAWN by the Pinatubo eruption to abject poverty, children from communities around the volcano beg for help in this 1991 photo shortly after the volcano's eruption.

COMMUTERS
Residents take a ride as school in a jampacked tricycle in Iriosin, Barangay, a common sight in the town where public transportation comes in the form of tricycles or jeeps that seat passengers on roofs.

LEYTE LANDSLIDE-PRONE AREAS (as of May 15, 2006)

DENR tags 190 villages in Leyte landslide prone

By Blanche S. Rivera

THE DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENT and Natural Resources identified 190 of the 1,291 villages in Leyte province as prone to landslides in varying degrees from moderate to high.

With the onslaught of the rainy season, experts from the DENR's Mines and Geosciences Bureau conducted the survey that gave huge and saturated areas of Leyte and Southern provinces.

The MGB report showed that 117 barangays in Leyte had high susceptibility to landslides while 240 have moderate landslide susceptibility.

Thirty-four barangays had low chances of having a landslide while the majority or 799 barangays were not susceptible to landslides at all, the report, submitted on May 12, said.

Environment Secretary Angelo T. Reyes sent a team of 35 experts to Leyte in February to assess the landslide susceptibility of the barangays and find suitable relocation areas for the residents of Guinsaugon.

A landslide had buried the entire Guinsaugon village in St. Bernard, Southern Leyte in February, killing about a thousand people.

The MGB also identified 38 barangays in Bohol province as highly prone to landslides and 47 as having with moderate landslide susceptibility.

Reyes said the landslide-prone areas are those that have experienced recent landslides, have numerous and large tension cracks that would dam off a flow, the commonly damages that are prone to shattering, and steep slopes.

Moderately susceptible barangays are those with small tension cracks, old landslides, and moderate slopes. Low-risk barangays have gentle slopes and no cracks.

The government is working to finish the mapping of landslide prone areas for 400 municipalities or 12,000 barangays earlier than the 2008 deadline with the help of international agencies donating devices and sharing expertise.

The MGB has identified only 110 areas that are highly susceptible to landslide, which include Barugo, Mt. Province, Nueva Vizcaya, Kalinga Apayao, Southern Leyte, Abra, Mindanao, Davao, Cotabato, Bukidnon, and Lanao.

More than a thousand people, nearly children, remain missing in Guinsaugon and Southern Leyte officials have proposed that they be declared dead to allow the release of financial assistance to their relatives.

Teams from various countries took part in the search and rescue operations for the victims, but they gave up when it became clear that no one would be alive in the mass of mud and rocks that buried the village.

The tragedy prompted local and international donors to pour assistance to the relatives of those who died in the landslide.

Tons of relief goods distributed in Guinsaugon

By Joni Arnaiz
PDI Visayas Bureau

ST. BERNARD, SOUTHERN Leyte—Tons of relief goods from Malaysia were finally distributed to the victims of last February's massive landslide, more than a month after they were brought in by the Royal Malaysian Air force C-130.

The distribution was qualified spectacular,as the relief goods were bundled so there would be no need sharing due aftermath in 2007.

But Southern Leyte Gov. Rosette Lerias explained that they decided to hold off the distribution of the goods to the beneficiaries after they found a discrepancy between the items of goods listed on the manifest and the actual goods delivered.

The Malaysian donations consisted of chocolate drinks, sweetened milk, infant milk powder, canned sardines, canned beef, assorted biscuits, 500 cooking pots, 500 cooking pans, 500 packets of female sanitary pads, 500 packets of bath soap at 3 bars per packet and canned sardines.

"I've just informed the Malaysian Embassy of the discrepancy of the actual goods received from the list of items the embassy gave," said Lerias who received the relief goods in Tacloban City on May 28.

The governor said they were advised to put off the distribution while the embassy officials were looking for the missing items.

"We only got a fax message from Malaysia's embassy on May 31 to proceed with the distribution as they continued to trace the lacking items saying that this has happened before...," Lerias said.

The distribution finally took place on June 7 at the Cimex Bay Regional High School in Barangay Guinsaugon, St. Bernard.

Among the beneficiaries were 111 families from Guinsaugon who had their homes and their loved ones when the landslide wiped out their village on Feb. 17.

The other beneficiaries were about 700 families from Barangays Nueva Esperanza, Sto. Angeles, Apahap, Magatas, Hinabian, and Anapog who have been evacuated.

"We don't care if we finish the distribution until the wee hours of the morning," said Lerias.

The provincial government has declared the entire area that was buried under tons of mud and rocks a sacred sanctuary.

Lerias said that since the Guinsaugon tragedy, hundreds of evacuees have been going to the site to offer prayers and flowers for those who died in the landslide.

She said Guinsaugon had been visited not only by local tourists but by foreigners as well.

With people from different areas coming to visit Guinsaugon, Lerias said she would discuss with Mr. Bernard Mayor Silvia late the construction of markers where the different families could pay respects to the dead and honor the volunteers who took part in rescue efforts.

2 more HIV cases found in Angeles City bars

ANGELES CITY—TWO MORE commercial sex workers have been found positive for the human immunodeficiency virus (HIV), which causes the acquired immune deficiency syndrome or AIDS, sanitary inspector and member of the task force AIDS, city health officer Leonardo Lizaso said on Friday.

Dr. Teresita Esguerra, chair of the City AIDS Council, said the latest HIV-positive persons were women who worked in bars on Fields Avenue. "They have not been seen in the area since undergoing tests in March this year, she said.

Esguerra said the center was expecting clients to come in small groups counseling and medical body.

Edmund said that the city's share of HIV cases has remained low at less than 1 percent of the total number of cases recorded in 53 AIDS sentinel sites in the Philippines. UK doctor under British Ministry said leaders of the City AIDS Council that she was impressed by the focus on efforts to prevent the spread of the disease.

Kenney on Friday visited the Reproductive Health and Wellness Center near the red-light district of Fields Avenue.

Esguerra said HIV/AIDS incidence in Angeles could be treated and "very low" when viewed against the 2,456 cases in the country from 1984 to 2005.

Mayor Lizaso Lizaso's was not one to deny the problem.

"We're the first city to admit we have AIDS cases in Angeles. We have cases, we admit. [But before],"Lizaso told Kenney.

"Some of these problems are global threats. They're not specific to one country. They're not specific to borders and boundaries if you want to know them your self... I'm very pleased that the Philippines really has a very low rate of HIV/AIDS [infection]. That's a very good thing but you want to keep it that way," Kenney said.

Lizaso said "preventative education" was the main approach the Philippine government took in keeping the country free from the fatal flu virus.

"I think that's fantastic and I want you to know we're committed to continue to help you on that. I think that's really impressive," Kenney said.

In an interview later, she said the American government gives $1.8 million (P99.9 million) a year to support the programs of the Department of Health and the Philippine National AIDS Council to keep HIV and AIDS at bay.

Of the first 64 confirmed cases dating the last years of the ES mayor's Clark Air Base, at least 30 have died from full-blown AIDS, Esguerra said. Most have returned to the provinces, she said.

She said 55 in that batch remained in the city and were known to the virus from foreigners among their customers.

The council has not made it mandatory for foreign tourists to present health certificates when they visit the city but will start in January. *Rizal De Vivar, PDI Central Luzon Desk*

JDV gung ho on Cha-cha despite Church opposition

By Carlo F. Gomez
PDI Visayas Bureau

ILOILO CITY—THE ROMAN Catholic Church's protest against the people's initiative as a mode to amend the Constitution has not dampened Speaker Jose de Venecia's optimism that the country will have a unicameral parliamentary form of government in place by the end of the year.

De Venecia held a news conference here that he was "99 percent" sure that Charter change would take place within the year.

He felt a new pretext for the groundbreaking that the Supreme Court would rule against it should the people's initiative be questioned by those opposed to it.

But De Venecia said in two to three weeks, all the signatures that the people gathered would be verified and submitted to the Commission on Elections (Comelec).

It would be up to the poll body to decide if the petition was sufficient in form and substance and if the required three percent of the voting population per district had been met.

"We have already reached way way beyond the constitutional requirement of number of signatures for a people's initiative with 6.5 million signatures already gathered and 6.8 more signing," he said.

The minimum number of signatures needed is 5.1 million, he said.

Supreme Court

"It's an overwhelming endorsement by the Filipino people of the people's initiative as the best kind under the Constitution," he said.

As long as the Supreme Court would not issue a restraining order, De Venecia said the process would continue and the Comelec could set a plebiscite for the exercise if the people were in favor of changing the form of government from presidential to a unicameral parliamentary by Sept. 1 to Oct. 1.

"I don't think the Supreme Court is in good wisdom as the last arbiter in our society will recognize that this is the overwhelming will of the Filipino people," he said.

The Constitution guarantees that by three-fourths of the people amendments to the Constitution can be made, he said.

De Venecia said changing the Constitution through a constituent assembly was not possible because of the Senate's opposition.

"But we will continue to work out to members of the Senate," he said.

As to the Church protests against changing the Constitution through what it calls a questionable people's initiative, De Venecia said there were priests in certain areas who are very supportive.

"There are always those who will take a negative stance and we respect that, that is why we are in a democracy," he said, "but I assure you we have the overwhelming number."

No-el

Asked if a shift toward a parliamentary form of government would mean no elections next year, De Venecia said the public opinion was for elections in 2007 and he sees he is.

It will be the members of the interim parliament who would set the election date, he said.

The adoption of a federal system that is being pushed in the provinces will be taken up by the interim parliament, he said.

Meanwhile, he said Congress has already approved the postponement of the barangay elections to October 2008.

De Venecia was in Bacolod City to speak to the barangay captains of the city and the Philippine Councilor's League 6th Visayas Island Congress.

On the issue of the bombings, De Venecia said he believes extremists in the opposition were behind some of the bombings in Metro Manila.

"I think some in the opposition, I will not say all," he said.

When pressed to identify extremists in the opposition, he replied: "you know them...don't get me into trouble."

Sen. Rodolfo Biazon and Aquilino Pimentel on Thursday said police should stop accusing the political opposition for the series of bombings.

ANTI-Charter change protesters express their anger during a demonstration June 12.

TIPO protesters display their resistance to an anti-Charter change rally in Plaza Miranda.

INQUIRER Mindanao

John Jan Bandayrel
Surigao City/Nina R. Alvarado

School copes with classroom shortage

By Michael Tarcanga
Dumaguete, Zamboanga del Sur

PROBLEM: IF YOU TEACH IN A school which has 1,604 students but only 13 classrooms—a ratio of about 123:1—what will you do?

Possibly, one solution is to tell teachers at the Dumaguete National High School in Dumaguete, Zamboanga del Sur, for they have to exert extra effort to make sure their students learn in crowded, makeshift classrooms. Also, talk to the students, for they have to endure the rain and heat.

To address the classroom shortage in the school, three classes are held on the bleachers of a grandstand and five more under—which members of the Parents-Teachers Association (PTA) walled with plywood to shield the students from the rain and sun... and still another class in an open multipurpose hall.

Classes have been conducted in the grandstand for the past four years, said one of the teachers, Josephine Rinagad.

Another teacher, Sheem Sumroan, who handles Technology and Livelihood Education classes, said the students on the bleachers had to move from time to time, to avoid the rain.

"But we have to endure the heat that comes from the galvanized iron roofing of the grandstand," Sumroan said.

Classes on the bleachers and at the multipurpose hall are disrupted by the "noise from the rain falling on the roof."

"We really have to stop the lectures and instead make students do an activity which requires no discussion or lecture," Sumroan said.

Ian Rey Villegas, a third year student who sits on the bleachers, said he had difficulty concentrating on the lessons because of the heat and noise.

Three classes are held simultaneously in the area, two rooms apart and without any wall between them. Students in one class said they could hear the teacher lecturing in the next.

Rapril Tejiro, a third year student, said he had no choice but to attend his classes rather than stay at home.

The school also has a textbook problem. According to Hangad, three students share one textbook.

Only 239 textbooks in Mathematics are available for the more than 636 freshmen students.

Faced with these problems, the teachers must employ creative methods so that their students can understand their lessons, according to Sylvia Lothaires, a Math teacher.

"A teacher must be innovative and creative ... so they can be effective. At first, it is difficult to manage their large classes but you get used to it because you have no other choice," she said.

According to Hangad, the teachers are patient and determined.

"In one of our meetings with the parents, we told them that our teachers were doing their best to teach the students," Hangad said.

PTA president Alexander Abaz acknowledged that the school needed help and that the teachers were taking action to solve the problem.

"The problem cannot be solved by the teachers alone, so we try to assist them. The parents contribute money from their own pockets to pay for the teachers and classroom renovations," said Abaz, who sends four children to the school.

The PTA has pledged to shoulder the salaries of six teachers.

Abaz added that the municipal government must also help by paying for the salaries of 17 teachers.

"Mayor Edgardo Jumawa is very supportive of our needs, but we cannot totally rely on the local government for help. The national government should do something," he said.

Hangad said the Department of Education planned to build two more classrooms this year.

The PTA will also raise funds for the construction of five steel huts to serve as temporary classrooms.

CLASSES inside the bleachers and under the bleachers of a grandstand prove to be difficult for students and teachers in Dumaguete National High School in Zamboanga del Sur. Teachers complain they cannot concentrate due to noise and heat while teachers have to endure sprawled classes. Classes on the bleachers have to move around to avoid direct sunlight, while classes are disrupted during rain days. (Photos at right) MICHAEL TARCANGA

Teachers find deeper meaning of teaching

By Jeffrey H. Tupas
Kidapawan City

WHEN ART JIMENEZ FACED HIS students at the Mansingal National High School in Kidapawan City in North Cotabato at the start of classes last week, a sea of boyish grins and girly giggles swamped him.

The familiar cool moments broke perplexed goose bumps for his hands were not sweating, unlike last year's first day of school.

The supersaturation of the students was irritating, though. Still, the 29-year-old teacher kept his composure and confidence, in synch with the calmness of Mount Apo at the backdrop.

Later, he confessed to being ready for battle through a different approach, thanks to a recent life-changing experience.

"I realized that learning would be a lot easy for the students if as a teacher, I practiced what I preached to them. Before, I only thought of myself and that my existence here was because I was forced to function," Jimenez said, adding:

"Now, I am more aware of my influence to them as a teacher and that is a big responsibility. I just never thought a life-changing experience and it will not just reside idly in me but has to be translated to how I am going to teach my students ... it has to be transferred and shown."

Saving people, oneself

Jimenez was referring to a situation in which he was in an icy cold swimming pool with people struggling for their lives around him. Though horrified at the sight, he had to decide on saving the people around him and himself although he was an expert swimmer.

"We often talk about doing good things for others but things are always different out in the classroom in the cold waters. Still, you will be tested with people's goodness on by your own simple goodness," he said.

"Sometimes, circumstances require you to save yourself and save others, and you will be very pleased at the outcome."

Jimenez and 33 other high school teachers from Kidapawan and the provinces of Sarangani, South Cotabato, Sultan Kudarat, Lanao del Sur and Albay joined the first-ever Teacher's Energy Camp of the Philippine National Oil Corp.-Energy Development Corp. (PNOC-EDC) at the foot of Apo.

The facility was designed for participants to immerse themselves, their teaching and their methods in life.

Agnesita Williams, 45, a teacher of the Davao National High School in Davao City, said that after what she went through, she was now equipped with a different but effective teaching strategy. She is now more aware in understanding and dealing with youthful enthusiasm and aggressiveness, she said.

"Students will always try to edge each other out. They are so competitive and even aggressive that they are often misunderstood. Everything will end in one difficulty for them if we misjudge them," she added.

"Students have a lot of fears that can develop into full-blown crises if not addressed. I know in my heart now that I can already handle issues of fear and problems with self-confidence because of my experiences here in this camp," she said.

Conquering fears

"Here, I also conquered some of my own fears. Later, I became more confident about the things that I know and the things I could actually do. I learned more because I tried and was successful in putting myself in the shoes of my students," she added.

During their five-day stay, the teachers took various challenges that not only tested their ability to compete with each other but also allowed them to develop self-esteem, discipline and teamwork.

Teddy Cachuela, a former education undersecretary who served as the participants' adviser and debriefer, said the teachers went through a "going out of the box," a very essential effort for them to be creative and, ultimately, to reach the students."

Hangad said.

Cachuela said the camp was designed to help the teachers realize that they could be more than what they are now.

"We want them to realize that they can be more than what they are now. We want them to realize that they can be more than what they are now. We want them to realize that they can be more than what they are now.

Ngayong Father's Day, 'wag nating kalimutang iparating ang pagmamahal kay Daddy abroad.

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Editor Ester G. Olpoco

Journey to healing starts with art and play

Newly designed Children's Room more conducive to therapy

By Ed Yap

ON THE SEVENTH FLOOR OF THE ASIAT Trauma Medical Center (AMC) in Quezon City is a small room that provides children a sweet refuge from all manner of inner hurt and distress.

With its walls painted a soft blue, this hospital room has no sickbeds and sterile machinery—only toys, foam bags, books and videos.

It is a place where young survivors of abuse and domestic violence can freely express their feelings—through art or play—to begin their journey toward healing.

The Women's Crisis Center (WCC), in partnership with The Body Shop Philippines, recently inaugurated the Children's Room of the Women and Children Crisis and Protection Unit (WCCPU) at the AMC.

"In this place, children can read, watch videos and play with toys alone, or with a group. They can be just themselves here," said WCC executive director Sally Ujano.

"Before the Children's Room was opened, our counselors met with the kids in rooms that were not designed with children in mind," Ujano said.

Not conducive to healing

The sterile-furnished counseling rooms were not conducive to healing work with children, she added. "Given the number of young survivors we talked to last year, we knew we had to do something," Ujano said.

Funded by The Body Shop, a cosmetics company known for its corporate social responsibility, the Children's Room is now furnished with art materials and toys, a television set and DVD player, complete with educational and movie-animal videos. A corner of the room was also converted into a reading and storytelling area.

The room was designed to integrate creative play with expression and focus on the children's path toward learning and recovery, according to Ms. Esha Dupe of The Body Shop Philippines.

Nonviolent toys

"The toys and materials here were specifically chosen so as not to include violent toys like guns, swords and knives," she added.

The WCCPU is the first hospital-based crisis intervention center for women and children in the country jointly managed by a government hospital (AMC) and a nongovernment organization (WCC).

The result of a pilot project in 1996 called Project Haven, it was conceptualized by women's organizations, the National Commission on the Role of Filipino Women and funded by the Department of Health and the United Nations Population Fund.

It is a center where women and children who were victims of abuse can relate with others who have gone through a similar experience in a nonthreatening, nonviolent and emotionally supportive environment, according to WCCPU executive director Edes Jesuguia-Ibera.

One of the children recovering at the facility is Ria Soriano (not her real name). She was 10 years old when her father attempted to rape her. He stopped the assault when she cried out, but he told her that he would rape and kill the younger.

The previously energetic Ria became depressed and suicidal and stopped going to school. When her mother learned about the abuse, she filed a case against her husband and brought Ria to the WCCPU at the AMC for counseling and case management.

Victims of abuse

Ria is just one of the hundreds of abused children who were brought to the WCCPU/AMC in 2005. With ages ranging from 9 (7 years old, the children's room could, but the majority were sexual abuse cases, from molestation and sexual harassment to incest and attempt rape.

There were also children brought in after being maltreated in their homes or by other adults, and a huge number of secondary survivors—children of battered women, ranging from 6-17 years of age) whose ordeal of domestic violence also manifested in their dysfunctional behavior.

Remigio Perez explained that as a crisis intervention center, the primary function of the WCCPU was to provide temporary assistance for abuse victims, offering services like counseling and temporary shelter. The center would then refer the women and children to more suitable institutions for their care while ensuring that they would be looked after in the long term, she said.

Children tagging along

Remigio Perez said the center did not originally accept children, only women, but officials have found out that women tended to bring their children along when visiting the center.

Children of battered or abused women would sometimes show "dysfunctional behavior" because of their exposure to violence in the home, she said.

"When they're playing, you'll notice that they bang their toys or hit their playmates," she said. This is even more true for children who are victims of abuse themselves, she added.

"Sometimes, children don't want to talk about what happened to them, or they resort to more physical ways to release how they feel," said Marivic Pilarta, one of the counselors.

Art and play can go a long way in helping children express their feelings, she said, adding that the Children's Room was one of the ways that the center could reach out to them.

"Children need to trust you first before they open up. It's a complete relief to them to go to a library room intended for adults, they'll be uncomfortable. But in the Children's Room, they feel more carefree. They're always welcome here," Pilarta said.

THE NEWLY opened Children's Room at the center

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THE WOMEN'S Crisis Center: A place where victims of abuse find refuge

MINDING the guests during the opening of the Children's Room were (from left) Dr. Alicia C. Flores of the Pediatrics Department of the East Avenue Medical Center; Ms. Salome Ujano, Women's Crisis Center executive director; Jill Buckingham, representing her husband, British Ambassador Peter Buckingham and Paddy Soares of the British Women's Association.

A school for Dumagat elders in Tanay

Alternative learning program teaches mountain community it's never too late to learn

By Edson C. Tandoc Jr.

IO IN THE MOUNTAINS OF SIERRA Madre in Tanay, Rizal, some elderly members of the Dumagat tribe are discovering a passion for learning.

"We are happy that we are learning new things. Our parents and grandparents had never thought of letting us go to school," Lope delos Reyes, who thinks he is already more than 60 years old, said in broken Filipino, stopping once in a while to clarify his word use.

"Now, even if we are already very old, we can show our children and grandchildren that we are willing to learn," he added, flaunting his toothless smile.

Delos Reyes is one of the Dumagats who are benefiting from an alternative learning program which the Department of Education has been implementing in the area since 2003.

First-timers

Called the basic literacy program, it was formulated by the DepEd specially for tribe members like the Dumagats who have never been to school, according to Lyn Sanchez, teacher-in-charge.

For three to five months, around 25 "students," with ages ranging from 15 years old and upwards, hold classes in a wide clearing in a rapidly churning river to learn twice a week, she said.

They are taught to read, write and count, guided by a module provided by the national government.

The alternative learning program, which is also being implemented in other remote areas in the country, fits the Dumagat community in the mountain village of Sitio Dipo, Barangay Sta. Ines, which is three hours away from the town proper.

Ageless

Because of abject poverty, most of its elderly members have never learned how to read or write, preferring to look for work or forage for food to feed their growing families. Most of them do not even remember how old they are.

There are formal elementary schools at the foot of the village, like the Sta. Ines Elementary School, where some of the Dumagats have been sending their children in the last few years.

But most of the older generation had muddled the small school since it was built in 1958, just like Delia Cruz, who even helped construct the nearby Sapon Annex School in 1972.

Her childhood dream was to become a pilot and conquer the world. He is already too old to enter grade school, where the youngest of his 13 children is still enrolled.

But thanks to the alternative learning program, he can now write, although with difficulty, his own name.

Positive changes

"Writing is the most difficult for me. One teacher even had to hold my hand every time," Lope said, regarding not having joined the first classes inside the school his sons-in-laws had helped build.

His relatives, and classmates, Marina delos Cruz, who thinks she is about 50 years old, is also very proud of what she has learned during the sessions.

She can now read street signs, as long as they are printed in big letters, which means that she would not get lost the next time she goes to the town proper, which she and her neighbors rarely do.

And the best thing about knowing how to count? Dilubna said numbers can no longer deceive her as long as the amounts involved does not exceed P1,00.

"Before, we would just give our money and leave the store," she recalled.

"Some vendors would call us back to give our change but most of the time, we just left. We did not know how much to pay and how much change to get back," she added, her loud voice standing out amid the giggles of her neighbors.

She attends the basic literacy sessions, usually held every Saturday and Sunday, unlike Lope who rarely attend the sessions every Sunday because he is busy with work.

First facilitator

Some Dumagats in Sitio Dipo still remember Federico Mana, the program's first facilitator, who is now the district school's "buddy teacher."

Coming from a poor family, Mana, now 32, said he grabbed the teaching post when it first opened in 1999. The first difficulty he encountered was recruiting students.

The formal schools, students enroll in the schools while I look for people who cannot read or write whom I can recruit," he told the Inquirer.

But how do you recruit people who would rather die out a living or are too shy to learn their ABCs and 123s now that they are much older?

"Dalawang mukhang pera for their attendance to report to the classroom. I go to his/her place where my student live or work," Mana said.

Later, as he became more popular in the area and word about the program began to spread, it became easier to recruit students.

Long, arduous trek

Twice a week, he would go up to the mountain village, a journey, which by itself, already poses a challenge.

The usual starting point is Barangay Sta. Ines' 17 kilometers away from the town proper, where the school district office is located.

That is just the beginning, however. The main road, which consists of asphalt, later ends in a narrow and rocky dirt road which runs for 10 more kilometers, crossing about a dozen brooks and rivers of crystal clear water.

Only two passenger jeepneys make the trip, which usually takes an hour and a half. Those going out of the remote village will have to catch the first trip at 4 a.m. or the last trip for the day at 8 a.m.

LYN SANCHEZ, teacher in charge of the basic literacy program, visiting some members of the Dumagat tribe.

THE ROAD to the mountain village of Barangay Sta. Ines is a 14-kilometer route that crosses at least a dozen brooks and rivers of crystal clear water.

THERE are formal schools in the barangay but most families cannot afford to send their children to school.

Traffic slightly improves in Mandaluyong due to new scheme

By Edson C. Tandoc Jr.

THE EXPERIMENTAL TRAFFIC SCHEME on Shaw Boulevard in Mandaluyong City was finally implemented on Thursday, resulting in a slight improvement in traffic flow although some motorists were still caught by surprise.

Though a city traffic engineer said the first day showed better traffic flow in a few side streets, Mayor Benjamin Romualdez said they would continue to study the effects of the changes.

"We will be monitoring for one week, initially," Gonzales told the Inquirer.

In an attempt to ease traffic on the usually congested Shaw Boulevard, the city government started implementing last Thursday a 14-year-old unused ordinance covering parts of the busy thoroughfare.

The city also added a few new traffic schemes to cover other areas not covered by the old ordinance, city traffic engineer Butch Javier said.

The experimental traffic scheme converted some side streets into one-way streets, prohibiting left turns in many part of the main road.

"There was a slight improvement, especially in areas manned by our traffic enforcers," Javier said.

Some areas, however, were not manned by traffic enforcers, leaving some motorists confused about the changes.

"The changes which would prove effective would be retained. If some streets still turn out to be congested, we will have to think of some other changes," Javier added.

From being two-way side streets, the following were turned into one-way routes: Bernardo Street from Hulog Street to Shaw Boulevard; Magdalena Street from Shaw to Hulog; Gomersville from Shaw to Gastiboo Street; Lucas Mendiola going one to Ilaya; Pilar Street from Shaw to Calderon Street; Mabini Street from Shaw to San Juan; Isbal Street from Shaw to Lee Street; Lazard Street from Shaw to Lee; Lee Street from Lazard St. to Shaw; Old Wack Wack Road from Shaw and Sto. Cristo Street going to Shaw.

A face of a city that was

By Quin T. Ataviado
Contributor

Fine and fine is the city
And who will the place sell?
Fine and fine is the city
But now the fine girls bird

Till my heart grows old with longing
And stained with the dirt of the street
And I become like sleeping thousands
In a loveless complex

THIS OLD HIGH SCHOOL REUNION comes to mind when I found an old photograph that I took in the 1960s—or almost half a century ago—of a filled room haven girls playing a child's flute as he begged for leftover change at the corner of Rizal Avenue and Carlocio Street in Sta. Cruz, Manila.

To my recollection, he was at the intersection almost daily, filling the air with familiar tunes that he mastered with his own feeling of sadness and nostalgia until the hordes of people who hurried by, apparently deaf and unseeing—and perhaps each absorbed in their own world and problems.

But he helped give the place its own unique character, an atmosphere that some would possibly never forget—and a few would even relish...even with the passing many decades.

Partly because of him, there certainly was and more will be another place in the world like that busy corner of old Manila.

That old place is now just a memory. The elevated railway passing overhead had darkened the area into a huge, cavern-like pit and its overwhelming buzz and din have driven off the brightly-lit and prosperous stores that once flowed there, along with their sparkling wares and visibly made-up but forever listless sales women.

The place has lately become a well-lit promenade (path of unfolding concerns) and crowded thoroughfare for commuters with a kind of efficient decorum, the place now exudes the aura of a monument to a gutted by-gone era.

SOME of the elderly members of the tribe are learning to read and write alongside their children.

Those coming back from the coast prayed it can either take the trip at noon or the last one at 3 p.m.

If you take the jeep, you have no choice but to walk, something Musa said he did a lot of times during his seven years as a facilitator.

Shaky legs

"My legs are beginning to shake every time I go up another mountain," he started. Although he now teaches to other remote areas in Tanay still plagued by illiteracy, he is thinking about quitting the job which has caused him local awards as not reaching retirement.

In the meantime, however, Musa said he will continue serving as a mobile teacher, bringing knowledge to the Dumagat villages.

The townsmen of Sitio Baya is not the only difficulty teacher facilitators face.

When the Inquirer visited the village, Sanchez accompanied this writer. On the way back, she discovered that she had left her bag in one of the remote schools because of the distance, she decided not to go back.

Ordinarily, she could have just called up the school or sent a text message to one of her mothers, but there is no signal which would allow her to use her cellular phone in the village.

Via messenger

Sanchez said she would just do what she usually does when she wants to relay instructions to her teachers while she is at the main district office. She could send a letter either through a messenger or the jeepney driver going up to the village.

There is also no electricity in the area, just a generator operated by barangay officials from 6 p.m. to 12 p.m.

At daytime, whenever officials in the area have Elementary School or the nearby Sitio Baya Integrated School need a sound system for a program, the barangay machine is hooked up to a car battery.

Another frustration that an teacher-facilitator, she goes to the villages at least once a week, staying there for two days. Aside from the alternative learning program, she also oversees three formal elementary schools in the barangay.

The new program has thrilled Nanay, a shy-a Dumagat. She has not been to Villa Reya for several days because she has battling the flu.

Small pay

For her work with the Dumagats, his receives only a P1,500 monthly allowance from the Tanay government.

Sanchez is grateful for the government's support although sometimes, the facilitator ends up spending his own money, like in Musa's case.

He recalled that he sometimes used some of his money to buy food for his students when he found out that some of them had not eaten anything before going to class.

"Later, it became fulfilling for me. Here you get to class and even learn from your students while you are busy teaching you. You get to help your countrymen," Musa said.

The Dumagats' eagerness to learn was quite evident during Sanchez's visit to Sitio Baya.

First, they asked her where Tanay, the facilitator was. They expressed alarm over the fact that Susan had not been to their village for several days.

Eager to learn

They then begged Sanchez for more teachers and classrooms. At one point, they said her they wanted to enroll their children in the elementary schools at the foot of the village but they would not afford the fare being collected.

When Sanchez said they would enroll their children even if they could not pay, the Dumagats smiled. All they said they had to worry about now was where to get the money for buying notebooks and shoes, she told them.

"Your children should wear shoes so that at least, even with your condition now, you can say your children still look decent," Sanchez explained.

The smiles were wider now as they seemed expressing how grateful they were to her.

"How can you leave them like this when they have put all their trust on you?" Sanchez said as she walked away from the village, tiptoeing on rocks found on a shallow brook, pounding to ensure

ROBERTO Musa, the program's first facilitator. "My legs are beginning to shake everytime I go up another mountain."

DUE TO ABJECT poverty, adults prefer to look for work or forage for food in food dixie families.

NBI agents seize fake sportswear in raids

SOME P1.5 MILLION WORTH OF COUNterfeit sportswear were seized by agents of the Montreal Bureau of Investigation in a series of raids conducted in Binondo, Manila the other day.

Raided were Nisly's Lingerie Fashion Haus, an establishment owned by Nisy and Lulu Chua and two retail outlets owned by Regie Cachapero at the Ilaga Plaza on Reyes Street, Binondo.

Also raided were two proprietors owned by Cachapero on the fourth floor of the Ilaga Plaza.

Lawyer Jose Jesus Yap, chief of the Investors Intellectual Property Rights Division, said his agents seized some 1,500 fake "Nike" shoes, 2,000 fake "Adidas" caps from the four establishments.

He added that they conducted the raids after receiving a complaint about the proliferation of fake "Billabong" products in the area.

The NBI agents placed the establishments under surveillance and conducted test buys to confirm whether these were the sources of the fake products.

Armed with search warrants issued by Manila Regional Trial Court Executive Judge Antonio Eugenio Jr., the NBI raided the four stores on Friday.

Yap said charges of unfair competition were filed against the owners of the establishments. Elmo G. Santos

Building for teachers finished

By Tina G. Santos

SINGLE PARENTS CAN PROUDLY SAY they were first Manila city and school officials will go ahead with the inauguration of the recently finished building for teachers inside the People's Botanical Park (PBP).

A statement issued by the city government announced that the building would be inaugurated next week, an event that would be one of the highlights in the city's weeklong celebration of its founding anniversary.

Environmentalist groups, including Wiener Foundation, have been opposed to the construction of the headquarters of the city schools division in the PBP which used to be known as the Antonino Forest Park.

The groups had said that construction in the park would harm the trees and the wildlife.

Wiener even filed a suit against the city government, a case which is still pending before the Manila regional trial court.

The inauguration of the educational facility will be held on Tuesday

MetroBriefs

20 percent fare discount for disabled

THE Makati City government will be giving away transport cards to over 2,000 differently-abled people living in or near its City Hall and the Pasong Tamo Disability (PWD) Transport ID Card Plus. The card entitles holders to a 20-percent fare discount when they ride on the Metro Rail and Light Rail Transit systems and in provincial buses and jeepneys within city. "Initially, the ID system will offer discounts covered by the national law. We are studying other issues that will enhance the services extended to disabled persons in Makati," Mayor de Veyra, head of the city's Persons With Disability (PWD) Affairs Office Cleotilde Narvasa said in a statement yesterday. Mayor Jejomar Binay, who will lead the distribution tomorrow, said the project was aimed at extending assistance and promoting the welfare of the city's PWDs.

Jennifer B. Ula

Killed in a shootout

A SUSPECTED member of the Yabang Gang," a robbery group preying on foreign nationals, was killed in a shootout with policemen on Thursday in Quezon City. Identified as Camilo alias "Totoy Camilo," 26, was shot dead by members of the Quezon City criminal investigation division who were out to arrest him. The officers said they spotted the suspect at his canteen-cum-sari-sari store, drinking with friends on Maya St., Barangay Commonwealth. When they tried to serve the arrest warrant on Camilo, he allegedly opened fire at the policemen with a Norinco 9-mm gun. They returned fire, killing the suspect in the incident and both said killing him on the spot. Camilo was being sought by the police for his alleged involvement with the Bonoan Gang which had staged a series of robberies involving Indian nationals in the city's second district.

DJ Yap

Man dead in mishap

A 64-YEAR-OLD man was killed after he was accidentally run over by a motorist on Pasong Tamo Extension, Barangay Urdaneta in Makati City last Friday. Police identified the victim as Ricardo Dalisay of Leave Makalan, Tarpaul City. He was driving his yellow Honda XRM motorcycle on P. Antonio Street corner Chi. D.F. Garcia Avenue at about 1:30 a.m. Friday when a Mitsubishi Canter driven by Florencio Lacsa, 37, sideswiped the motorcycle. When Echavez lost his balance, he fell on the pavement and was run over by the speeding pick-up truck, police said.

Edwin C. Tandoc Jr.

No touching, please

FOR TOUCHING the buttocks of a "guest or patron-officer" of a mistake bar, a female waitress worker was clubbed dead while his two companions were injured late last Thursday in Quezon City. Investigator Insp. Ed. Jose listed while his evening buddies Joselito, 21, and Mandy Espeda, 29, were hurt after 30 were attacked them inside the Double S Townhouse on Commonwealth Avenue, Barangay Holy Spirit. The victims were drinking beer and singing alleluia corrupt at about 12:30 a.m., when her partner noticed Aston-holding waitrs under the table, police said. When an unidentified GRO came to the table to serve their drinks, Aston suddenly touched her buttocks, prompting the woman to leave in a huff, said investigator PO2 Rogelio Bathan Jr. Her returns later, a group of about 10 men approached the three and attacked them using knives, a steel pipe and a gun of unknown type and make, police said. Aston, who sustained a gun wound on the thigh, was rushed to a nearby hospital. The Gazebo escaped serious injury, except for wounds on the head which required stitches. The GRO may have told the men about Aston's rudeness toward her, which prompted the attack, the Gazebo told the police.

DJ Yap

Makati government shuts down hotel

THE CITY government has ordered the closure of the Imperial hotel, a 20-story building at the corner of Makati Avenue and Ejercito Street, for noncompliance with safety and fire regulations. The hotel, according to City Hall, is operated by "F' Ventures Inc., a company headed by Manuel Morato, former chair of The Philippine Daily Investigator. Dillon Assembly in the City Administrator's Office. "The hotel management has ignored notices served by the city government which cited [its] multiple violations" of regulations on fire safety, electrical mechanical and sanitary standards. A fire hazard the building on April 22, sparking riot on the 18th floor where the hotel's lounge is now. It had destroyed around P1 million worth of property. When arson probers inspected the building, they found out that the automatic fire sprinkler system from the ground to the 18th floor were not properly functional and the remaining floor levels were not properly equipped with a fire protection system. The hotel's firefighting facilities were also found to be inadequate.

Carmela Bautista

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

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Editor Gerry Lirio

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This section is dedicated to Filipinos overseas toiling on land and at sea, in factories, in construction sites and in the homes of the world, and whenever work can be contracted to secure a better life for their families. These are their stories.

Fathering on both sides of the Pacific

'My ultimate goal in life is to see my children together. I want to hug them tight and say sorry for the missing years'

FERNANDO PIÑA in San Francisco in 1986. He was a poor, family man when he left the Philippines in 1971. He is now a wealthy businessman in California, dying to earn forgiveness from his first family he left in Manila.

By Joric G. Contreras
Contributor

FERNANDO "FERDINAND" PIÑA LEFT the Philippines in 1971. A native of Tarlac, Tarlac City, now 59, he immigrates his own auto repair shop in San Francisco, California.

He started working in the United States primarily to envision a better life for his family. His first job abroad was to oversee the daily operations of the Arco Gas Station in San Francisco, California. In 1980, he worked as a janitor at Hyatt Regency Hotel California. After a few years, he found another job as the supervisor of the janitors of the San Francisco State University.

For a while, he stopped working and took time out to study an automotive course in the City College of San Francisco.

He used to spend his vacation in the Philippines every year with his family—a daughter and a son, Jennifer (27) and Mike (28).

Jennifer finished college at the Philippine School of Interior Design (PSID), while Mike dropped out of college. He now runs clothes, toys, and other stuff.

Until 1984.

Another family

According to him, he encountered a "big problem" abroad. "I had no choice but to stop risking my vacation in the Philippines. I also had to stop sending them money for a while," he shared.

The problem was that Nanding had another family abroad. "I have a 17-year-old kid now, he is studying here. Someday, in God's time, I hope my two children in the Philippines would meet their younger sibling here." he said.

According to him, life has many trials and difficulties. Same is, he encountered it. But what he wants now is to rectify the mistakes of the past.

PIÑA with wife Dea and children Mike and Jen during happier times at the Manila International Airport in 1984.

"Siguro, simulan ng Diyos na mangyari ang lahat ng ito. Nagkaroon ako ng pamilya rito, pinanirahan akong hindi inaakalaanhalos at nalason kong pamilya sa Pilipinas, ayaw ng matanggap nila at maipaliwanag ako. Perhaps, God had a plan for me. I had a family here. I lost touch with my family in the Philippines. Here I built duty-ended condominium and Toyota taxi. At this point, my goal is to see them. Perhaps, I will return to the Philippines next year," he said.

Acceptance

When Jennifer was asked about his father's new family in California, she gently answered, "I have already accepted what really happened, and even my mom has no plan[s] of eating anyone so long, as my father exercises fully support to us. At present, he is supporting my studies. I am glad now even if really took him a long time to get in touch again. The first is, he will always be my father, and I love him."

When Jennifer was asked for the reasons about how she felt during the sudden "absence and/or disappearance" of her father, she said, "The family never understands what happened to him/ herself. At first, it was really hard to believe that he suddenly disappeared. The family really had a hard time coping for a number of years, without any reasons, he was running. It was 1989 when I last saw him. It was also his last return to the country. We lost our communication."

Word from the kids

Although she already finished college, she is taking up a second course, Nursing, at the Perpetual Help College of Manila. "There are no reasons why I am taking up Nursing, coz, I want to earn more for my family someday; second, just enjoying studenting at magkinabuhay-sa College na yans makiss ur medcourses ngss. If I want it's much and work in California so me and her with my father)," she said.

Nanding now owns a house and several properties in San Francisco. His relatives and siblings also live, manage and run their businesses there, although one of his siblings opted to stay in the Philippines. Now, Nanding Piña said he is saving money for the education of his children in the Philippines and abroad.

Message to kids

"I want my children to finish their studies and fulfill their dreams; that is my reason why I am investing so much for their education," Nanding told the long-time hospitalero.

When Nanding was asked about his message to his children in the Philippines, he said, "I miss you all, xxx/Mike, I hope to see your daughter soon, if you could still find a way to finish your studies, please do. To Jen, I know you are such a loving daughter, study hard. To Dea, please take care of my kids. I hope to see you soon."

Be careful, and other long distance family planning do's

By Faye Rogas
Contributor

SO YOU ARE A BALIKBAYAN OFW WHO HAS not seen your wife for a number of years? You must be in touch, but you already have a number of children. And by the way, did you have sex with somebody else while abroad? Relax.

Think of family planning and the many methods you can ensure that you won't transmit to your wife any sexually transmitted disease you might have contracted abroad. Think of family planning, and the many ways you and your wife can enjoy his short vacation together without peek-a-boo-ing issues children from previous.

Though family planning isn't considered one of the major issues confronting OFWs, it should definitely be on their list of concerns. For those OFWs who still have the opportunity to practice it, family planning has brought numerous benefits such as economic stability, lesser emotional stress, and the freedom to pursue other interests.

But, of course, OFWs should a lot of careful planning.

Timing is crucial

For most who stand and work abroad, the main concern is most probably timing. Most men can be lured to their wives' side or outside pretext. Caught in the euphoria of homecoming, they forget to take precautions. Their wives, in turn, still give into the man's amorous demands even if they know they risk an unplanned pregnancy precisely because they also want to rekindle. It's either that or the wives figure they can't refute their husbands who have endured celibacy for a long spell. The men often couldn't care less—only complaining later on when the burden of raising too many children take their toll on the family's resources.

There are cases like Joel, 38, who worked as an engineer in Saudi Arabia for 20 years. Joel and his wife Ellen had the foresight to use a reliable FP method even if he was away the most of the year. "Some OFWs take it for granted or simply forget about just how important family planning is when they are away from their families. Unplanned pregnancies usually happen when OFWs come home. And, in their happiness over their homecoming, family planning is forgotten," he said.

Right from the start, Joel knew that he and Ellen could not take chances. He said: "We were to space the births of our children because, for one, my wife would be left alone to raise them while I was away. Second, we had some financial obligations to take care of first before we could even plan to have more children."

Joel and Ellen decided that she should go on the pill. Ellen claimed it on that she would be off the pill for several months and be on the regimen again about two months before Joel's expected date of arrival.

1ST PINOY JUSTICE OF THE PEACE

Canadians call him 'His Worship'

He was a judge in the Philippines. In Canada, he had to work as a laborer, parking attendant and other odd jobs

By Sylvia Estrada-Pitma
Contributor

A FAMILY CHOOSES IN LIFE CAN EITHER BE current or family.

For Dominic Estrope who migrated to Canada in the late 80s and found that he did not like the jobs available then, there was family to think of—career would take a back seat.

Canada may be the land of milk and honey to a lot of Filipinos but it was not so for him. He was willing to forsake this adopted country for a good career in the Philippines but his family insisted to stay and he had to choose family over career. It was a difficult life for Ariel in Toronto for us years as he had to accept an everything just to be able to make ends meet.

Today, my brother Dodong can easily buy plane tickets to come home to the Philippines with his wife every year and fly to parts of the world to see new places every now and then. He can even find the time to dine out often and shop without looking to worry. As an overseas worker, he can well afford to do that now but it was not that way when he started a new life in a foreign land.

Now a full-fledged lawyer in Ontario, Canada, he was appointed Justice of the Peace in Ontario about 14 years ago. It was in 1992 when he applied for the position of Justice of the Peace. He heard a local candidates and to his surprise the first Filipino to be awarded the job in Ontario. Candidates who commit all kinds of indiscretions and petty crimes get a notice order to appear in court and Dodong is one of the few persons who handle these cases. "Some would be a long queue daily and more often than not, he has to squeeze himself through the crowd to get to his "table"—the one in the parking office.

He remembers vividly a day in his life as Justice of Peace. He was on his way to his office when growing pain through a line, a black man at the back of a long queue screams "you get here behind me, man. I've been lining up for hours and you came to get ahead of everyone. There is no way you can do that." My brother turned to him with a smile and said, "Sorry, but I am the Justice of the Peace who will hear your case. I have to get to my table."

Getting noticed

This Filipino Justice of the Peace does not only enjoy the financial perks of the job. He is also proud of the fact that his work is acknowledged and recognized by Canadians who see in him the owners of that blindfolded icon of justice as he clothes her just and intelligent decisions. In fact, a well respected Canadian columnist Mark Steyn of the Toronto Sun Review recently wrote about him in his column. Steyn said he appear in court particularly in Ontario's code as he was a victim of Canadian traffic officers who in Steyn said's words "proved the system is a hunt for easy cash". But, he, he it's good to know they also count outside of the Philippines).

"The courtroom to which my case was assigned last week was reigned over by Justice of the Peace Dolores Estrope. He had the patience of Solomon, disguised justice where justice was undoubtable and wisely gave breakers those who were victims of the system ... The JP dismissed the case, especially because he found the parking enforcement officer's testimony ambiguous, despite the fact he testified to having 14 years in the job."

Patience of Solomon

Yes, even a high profile Canadian columnist sees addresses him as "His Worship." To be addressed as "His Worship" in a country where being colored (it's either you are black, brown or yellow) is a handicap is indeed a great achievement.

Before he left the Philippines, Dolores, who his family and friends call "Del" had already the title "judge" before his name. He was a proud man who took his law degree from San Beda College and who, when he took the bar, almost made it to the top 10. He missed it by a slim percentage margin. An aggressive young Lawyer, he eventually got appointed municipal judge of Solano, Nueva Vizcaya. But his wife died and the sad woman in his life was a classmate who once worked as a nurse in Canada.

He knew what he was in for when he migrated to Canada but it was a choice of career and family life. His wife was working as a nurse in Toronto and his daughter wanted to experience living in another country like most migrating were, because the wishes of his family.

THE JUSTICE AND HIS COURT: Estrope and wife Lesley with son-in-law Jeff Orel, daughter Rochelle and nephew Jeff Estrada at their home in Toronto.

LIFE IS GOOD: Estrope finds pleasure babysitting his first grandchild Cameron born a month ago. "Now I can relate to friends who gush over their grandchildren," he says. "Being a grandfather is an entirely new dimension in the real human experience."

From lawyer to laborer

From being a judge in the Philippines, he plunged to laborer status in Canada. This may could have just sat it out there while his nurse-wife roamed good money but he was not used to failures and hence, chose to share it out there. He first worked in an asbestos plant pushing drums and he avoided inhalation and bad respiratory elements inhibiting his lung.

A man of letters, he dreamed his destiny in the land of milk and honey this was—"One day I looked at the mirror and it was a different man I saw—it was someone who had lines for wrinkles, of dignity." The white foreman even added insult to his injured pride. "Look at that guy," the white man said pointing to an illiterate man, "he never went to school but he does whatever he can say."

At that point, Del dropped what he was doing and replied, "That is why I went to school so I would not work like you. It is not welcome mats that this country would not give a new immigrant a better job." He walked out and never went to work there again.

He went on to other odd jobs after that until he did this for six years. He could have walked back to the Philippines and get reappointed as a member of the judiciary but he had to sacrifice his career for his wife and kid.

In the meantime, he found himself studying anything at all. As a parking attendant, he brought language tapes to work and studied French, Chinese, Japanese and German languages. He took law courses at night and squeezed in legal training as a law intern in Ontario.

Prima don

I remember my brother Del in the family house. Being the eldest boy, he was the prima don. He would cane for his slippers and ask his siblings to serve him coffee. A book lender, even his friends were his underlings. He was always intellectually active. He loved to read books and watch news stations and Newsweek says. For a man used to intellectual pursuits, to be a laborer in a foreign land was the pits. But he took all the hardships and finally triumphed.

A colleague of my brother—Justice of the Peace Raul de Mesquital—recounts in his birthday paragraphs my brother's ordeal to become who he is today in Canada.

"In the early years, Del Estrope asked the Toronto Senior Regional Justice of the Peace to reschedule his JP duties as he could attend the bar admission courses. He was determined to become a lawyer in Ontario. His work started at 8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. at the Old City Hall; then reverse classes at 5 to 9 p.m.; then back to first appearance night courts from 6 to 10 p.m.

"Del was able to use the limits of human endurance. He landed in the hospital. He missed a month's class and even exams. But he bounced back. His strategy of 'no pains, no gains' paid off. Del was finally called to the Ontario Bar.

Del and his wife Lesley are now happily settled in Toronto. His daughter Rochelle is now married to a Filipino-Japanese guy named Jeff Orel who Del describes as an "amiable" and dutiful son-in-law. He is now a month old lolo with the birth of Cameron. Rochelle and Jeff's first born.

At 58, Del has certainly found his place in the sun.

Life is complicated enough.
Your bank shouldn't be.

US warns N. Korea not to stage a 'provocative' missile launch

WASHINGTON—THE UNITED States on Friday warned North Korea against conducting a "provocative" intercontinental missile test after US officials said there were signs a launch could take place as early as this weekend.

A test would be Pyongyang's first launch of a long-range missile since it stunned the world in August 1998 by firing a Taepodong-1 over Japan that landed in the Pacific Ocean.

"Such a launch would be a provocative act and we would in-

[illegible] urge them to freeze their strategies and their activities on returning to the six-party talks," State Department spokesperson Sean McCormack told reporters. He was referring to talks on curbing Pyongyang's nuclear program involving the United States, China, Russia, North and South Korea and Japan.

The launch—expected to involve a Taepodong-2 missile with an estimated range of 3,500 km to 4,300 km...could come as early as this weekend, US officials said.

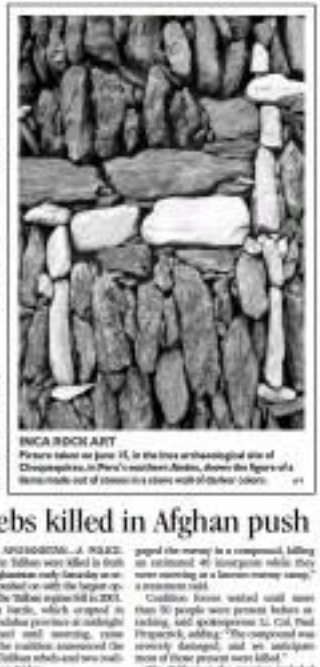
They said it seemed increasingly likely Pyongyang would go through with the launch—earlier than just making preparations to get US and international attention—but that it could still decide to cancel.

US officials said they would not try to shoot down a test missile although McCormack said a move building "we will take necessary preparatory steps to track any potential activities and to protect ourselves."

Americans and Japanese "assert"—including satellites and a US guided missile ship...have moved into position to survey as long-range surveillance and tracking platforms.

Washington and its allies were caught off guard when Pyongyang last tested eight years ago and they are determined this time to be ready to gather critical intelligence on the North's capabilities.

McCormack said Washington has consulted key countries in a campaign to make clear to North Korea that "a missile launch would be a provocative act that is not in their interests and will further isolate them from the world." Reuters



INCA ROCK ART
Picture taken on June 15, in the Inca archaeological site of Choquequirao, in Peru's southern Andes, shows the figure of a llama made out of stones in a stone wall of Andean culture. AFP

Nepal to set up interim gov't with rebels

KATHMANDU—KING GYANENDRA and rebel leader held ground-breaking talks on Friday with the government, which agreed to dissolve parliament and set up an interim administration to exclude the rebels.

Prime Minister Girija Prasad Koirala and rebel chief Prachanda said after nearly 10 hours of talks with Prime Minister Girija Prasad Koirala and top political party leaders that an interim constitution will be prepared within three weeks and later a new interim government will be formed.

"I am proud ... because the decision we have taken is a historic one," he told reporters.

Maoists also promised to dissolve their parallel governments around the country's districts.

Prachanda was speaking at a news conference flanked by leaders of some of Nepal's main political parties. Both sides said they hoped the interim governments would be established within a month.

"This consensus can play a very significant role in solving the country's problems," said Home Minister and chief government negotiator Krishna Prasad Sitaula.

The interim government will oversee landmark elections for a special assembly meant to draft a new constitution and review the role of the monarchy. Prachanda said those elections were likely to be held in March or April of next year.

The turbulent rebel leader, who flew in the capital in a private helicopter from western Nepal, was making his first public appearance in Kathmandu since the revolt began. Reuters

AFGHANS wait to be checked by US soldiers at a check point near Khoshrow, outside the new US military base near the village of Musa Qala, Helmand Province, south Afghanistan, June 16. More US soldiers are moving into the region in support of military operation Mountain Thrust. AFP

45 rebs killed in Afghan push

KANDAHAR, AFGHANISTAN—A NATO-led force killed 45 Taliban rebels in fresh fighting in Afghanistan early Saturday as security forces pushed on with the largest operation since the Taliban regime fell in 2001.

The latest battle, which erupted in southern Kandahar province at dawn on Saturday and continued until morning, came hours after the coalition announced the killing of 40 Taliban rebels and two coalition soldiers on Friday.

Nearly 100 insurgents have been killed in major strikes since the coalition launched Monday the five-day operation Mountain Thrust, launched in mid-May with the support of about 10,000 people, including support staff.

Taliban rebels stormed a district governor's office in Kandahar, a hotbed of Taliban insurgency in a second assault on the ministry spokesperson Yousuf Stanikzai said.

After the battle: "The Taliban fled, leaving the seven bodies at the site," Stanikzai told AFP. "One police was also martyred and one was wounded in the several hours' fighting."

Hours earlier the coalition announced that about 30 Taliban insurgents were killed in two separate battles in Oruzgan province. Friday's strikes were part of Operation Mountain Thrust.

The larger attack was in the town of Deh-e-gan where "coalition forces engaged the enemy in a compound, killing an estimated 40 insurgents while they were entering in a known enemy camp," a statement said.

Coalition forces waited until more than 50 people were present before attacking, said spokesperson Lt. Col. Paul Fitzpatrick, adding: "The compound was severely damaged, and an unspecified number of those present were killed."

The Taliban at the meeting included members of a cell tasked with making bombs, financiers and arms brokers responsible for numerous attacks, the coalition statement said.

The second attack took place northeast of the provincial capital Tirin Kot, according to a separate statement.

Afghan and coalition forces raided a known Taliban compound, killing three insurgents. One US soldier was wounded.

As the coalition claimed new successes, it lost two troops in eastern Kunar province, when a gated vehicle struck a bomb planted in the road, another statement said, without specifying the soldiers' nationalities.

Around 137 coalition soldiers have been killed in action in Afghanistan this year, more than half of them Americans who form the bulk of the US-led force that is hunting down Taliban and other militants in the south and east of the country. AFP

UN votes to send Taylor to The Hague

UNITED NATIONS—THE UN Security Council on Friday unanimously passed a resolution authorizing the transfer of former Liberian leader Charles Taylor to the Netherlands to stand trial for war crimes in Sierra Leone.

Taylor, seen as the mastermind behind bloodshed in Liberia and Sierra Leone, is being held in a prison cell guarded by Mongolian UN peacekeepers in Freetown, the Sierra Leone capital.

He faces 11 charges of war crimes and crimes against humanity for backing Sierra Leone's rebel group, United Front rebels, who were drugged child soldiers into battle and killed, mutilated and raped civilians during the conflict.

The new International Criminal Court, based in The Hague, has indicted Taylor on a UN-backed special tribunal on Sierra Leone's civil war and is now in custody.

The resolution adopted by the 15-nation UN Security Council asked Secretary General Kofi Annan to help with the legal and practical arrangements necessary to send Taylor to the Netherlands.

Liberia and Sierra Leone authorities do not want to host the trial, fearing Taylor's presence could spark unrest among his supporters and possibly ensure a civil war in either West African country.

"The continued presence of Taylor in the subregion is an impediment to stability and a threat to the peace of Liberia and of Sierra Leone and to international peace and security in the region," the resolution said.

Denmark's UN ambassador, Ellen Margrethe Loj, this month's council president, said agreement that holding the trial in Sierra Leone would be a risk for the region. Reuters

Saudis bribed to buy arms, says former British defense secretary

LONDON—A FORMER BRITISH defense secretary claimed Friday that Britain paid bribes to corrupt Saudi Arabian officials to buy his country's arms in the 1970s.

"You either got the business and bribed or you didn't bribe and didn't get the business," Lord Ian Gilmour told BBC television.

The ex-minister's comments come as Britain reportedly nears finalizing the sale of 40 Tiffon pounds (74 billion dollars, 58.3 billion euros) worth of arms to Saudi Arabia, almost doubling the 20 billion pounds worth of trade already completed in recent years.

"In those days you either went along with how the Saudis behaved or what they wanted or you let the United States and France have all the business," said Gilmour, who was Britain's defense secretary from January to March 1974 in the Conservative government of then prime minister Edward Heath.

"I think it would have been quite inconsiderate particularly for us to say, oh no, we won't have anything to do with bribes or whatever's (necessary), we'll let the other countries get the money."

"It's not something you realize, you always or are particularly proud of. It just happens to be the terms of trade," Quilvest on the legality of "bonuses", Gilmour said: "If you're paying bribes to high-up people in the government (in Saudi Arabia), the fact that it's illegal in Saudi law doesn't mean very much." The BBC's "Newsnight" programme revealed a number of hitherto secret governmen memos in which diplomats and arms sales officials discussed how best to channel the commissions to "lucre" in Saudi hands.

The 1970s documents refer to "The Sikh factor". One confidential memo dated 1973, from Harold Walker, the head of defense sales, refers to using a company "to provide quasi-government oversight as well as "passing on the dosseurs." AFP

China's first oil reserve facility

BEIJING—CHINA WILL COMplete construction of its first strategic oil reserve facility in August, state press reported Saturday.

The plant, which will have the capacity to hold 5.2 million cubic meters (33 million barrels) of crude oil is located in the coastal city of Zhoushan in China's eastern province of Zhejiang, the China Daily reported.

Huge tanks are also being constructed as three strikes nine.

"This will not be a normal plant built in Zhejiang and one-sixth in the eastern provinces of Liaoning and Shandong," Su Zhiguang, an energy official at the National Development and Reform Commission told the paper.

"A lot of people ask what China should do (with the yuan) as global crude prices are soaring," the paper quoted Su as saying.

"We have our own solutions but I won't disclose them." Chinese officials said earlier this year that they would begin filling the Zhoushan facility by the end of the year, but soaring prices may cause a delay. China hopes its reserves will be able to hold up to half a year's supply of oil within 10 years. AFP

RICHARD CURTIS, one of the survivors of the 1999 Columbine shootings where 13 victims were killed in one of the worst school shootings in US history.

Columbine builds shooting memorial

LITTLETON, COLO., CONSTRUCtors of a long-delayed and relocated memorial to the victims of the Columbine High School shootings began on Friday in a quiet spot between two hills in a park where students and others can choose favored of an April 20, 1999.

Alex Dacik, who was a senior that year, stormed for the groundbreaking near Littleton and a speech by former President Bill Clinton to commemorate the incident.

Dacik, now 25, said he had his own memorial. He rolled up a sleeve to show a tattoo that he said he shares with more than a few members of his graduating class, a "C" in light purple, the Columbine colors, with "April 20th" inside.

"It's going to be a part of me forever," Dacik said of the attack.

The plans for a memorial—an issue wall for the 13 murder victims, and an outer circle for the 23 people wounded by the two teenage gunmen who took their own lives—received greatly over the years of planning and postponement.

Last year, the memorial committee cut $1 million from the $2.5 million budget and sent the designers back to the drawing board.

"The key thing that emerged was that it needed to be framed on Littleton, on us," said Bob Tanen, chairman of the Columbine Memorial Committee, which included parents, teachers and students.

Tanen said he believed that the changes became much they were forced on the committee and the town, just south of Denver, were positive. The memorial became simpler, and the committee is suffering to pay for it through fundraisers and the sales of Columbine High memorial pins by local businesses, came together. The memorial itself is still several hundred thousand dollars short of its goal, committee officials said.

Clinton, who came here after the shootings as president to speak to the survivors, was back to lead the groundbreaking.

Coming to the microphone as a powerful thunderstorm struck, he spoke for a few minutes, during which he discussed $350,000 to the memorial fund.

"Millions of Americans were changed by Columbine," Clinton said as a volunteer held an umbrella over his head as the rain fell and lightning flashed. "It was one of the darkest days in Hillary and me in the White House." AFP

Iraqi detainees held in box-like cells for days

WASHINGTON—IRAQI DETAINEES were held with their eyes taped shut in tiny box-like cells for up to seven days at a time while their every move was blared at a special operations holding facility, a US military investigation found.

The investigation conducted by Brig. Gen. Richard Formica following the Abu Ghraib prison scandal in 2004 also found that detainees were fed only bread and water for up to 72 hours at other special operations locales.

Formica's report, released in heavily redacted form Friday in response to a freedom of information Act lawsuit brought by the American Civil Liberties Union, dismissed other allegations that prisoners were physically abused or humiliated at the so-called tactical-holding facilities.

He also accepted the argument of US special operators that the small cells, which he said were mere 20 inches (50 centimeters) wide by four feet (1.2 meters) high and four feet deep, were "necessary for force protection and to prevent detainee from escape."

"It is reasonable to conclude that this would be acceptable for short periods of time, 24-48 hours, coincident to capture and until it was reasonably practical to transfer them to a suitable facility...two days would be reasonable; five to seven days would not," Formica wrote.

The general recommended no disciplinary action against any US special operations personnel. Instead, he recommended corrective measures to command supervision, training and policy.

He said conditions at one unidentified location "did not comport with the spirit of the principles set forth in the Geneva Conventions."

However, those circumstances were created by inadequate policy guidance, not personal failings within CJSOTF-[redacted] [redacted] Joint Special Operations Task Force-Arabian Peninsula]," he wrote.

Formica also investigated allegations by two Iraqis who said they were drained of the blood, fed only bread and water and physically abused by a former Iraqi policeman and an interpreter at another special operations holding facility in April 2004.

One said he was held that way for 17 days and the other for 13 days.

Formica said military personnel "confirmed that [redacted] were accused in the floor during their detention with a 2 or 4[liter] chair." AFP

SOME 200 people gather June 19 with torches in front of Prague Castle to protest against the war in Iraq in Prague. AFP

'Sandal' bomber kills 10 in Baghdad

BAGHDAD—A SUICIDE BOMBER killed 10 people in a Shi'ite mosque on Friday a day after Iraq's national security adviser said al-Qaeda's days in the country were numbered.

The bomber blew himself up as worshippers gathered at Buratha mosque in Baghdad, witnesses reported by Reuters.

Mosque guard Abdullah Hussein said the attack was carried out by a suicide bomber who had hidden explosives in his sandals to avoid security checks.

It is not the first time a suicide bomber has killed at the Buratha mosque. On April 7, three suicide bombers detonated as worshippers attended it, killing at least 71 people.

Friday's blast was the type of violence the new leader of al-Qaeda in Iraq, who succeeded Abu Musab al-Zarqawi last week, had vowed to maximize in a war against Shi'ites and the government.

Abu Ayyub al-Masri vowed the days ago to avenge the death of Zarqawi, who was killed by a US air strike last week.

An Iraqi militant body affiliated with al-Qaida pledged on the day to continue a holy war against the US forces.

"Jihad (holy war) will continue until doomsday. It will not be affected, delayed or weakened by the departure of one of its leaders," said an audio statement purported to be by Abdullah bin Muhammad Baghdadi, leader of the Mujahideen Shura Council.

Shortly after the mosque blast, more car bombs hit Iskandariyah and Hilla on the edge of Baghdad, killing at least three people.

The violence came just two days after the government launched a security crackdown with 80,000 Iraqi forces backed by 7,000 US troops to quell pressure on al-Qaida. Reuters

Accounts about Haditha horror contradict each other

BRAT BARGE EMPRESS IN Haditha on Nov. 19, 2005)

On that day, Marines killed 24 Iraqi civilians, including 10 women and children and an elderly man in a wheelchair that bore red and white checkers. Initially, the military blamed insurgents for the deaths.

Interviews with Marines who were present that day or their lawyers, Iraqi residents who witnessed the attack and military investigators provide broadly conflicting accounts of the killings.

Investigators and newspapers have said that Marines overreacted to a fatal roadside bombing and shot the civilians, only one of whom was armed, in cold blood. Marines and their lawyers, just beginning to speak out, contend that they believed they were under attack, and shielded under rules of engagement to use deadly force against those whom they believed were responsible for a roadside bomb that killed a Marine.

The 24 Iraqis who were killed included five men in a taxi and 19 civilians in several houses.

However, investigators have found evidence that contradicts the idea that the men were fleeing the bombing scene, as the Marines told military officials. Investigators have also concluded that most of the victims in those houses died from well-aimed rifle shots, not shrapnel or random fire, according to officials.

According to two people briefed on the investigation, one member of the Marine squad in Haditha is cooperating with investigators.

The Army general investigating allegations of a cover-up has admonished his report to Lt. Gen. Peter W. Chiarelli, the No. 2 US commander in Iraq, the military announced Friday, but its conclusions have not yet been made public.

Above a dozen enlisted Marines are under investigation for possible charges ranging from dereliction of duty to murder. A number of them are suspected in the Haditha killings, and also under scrutiny for failing to report the events accurately and request appropriate [illegible] and less-lethal officers have been relieved of duty for reasons not yet made public. AFP

Gates' aides hope to avoid IBM mistakes

BILL GATES

REDMOND, WASH.—MICROSOFT stands out in the computing world much as another corporate giant, IBM, once did. Now its task is to avoid repeating IBM's mistakes.

At 30 of its sexiest and the Internet era gushers have, Microsoft's revenues have never been higher and its quarterly profits remain in the billions. But it has yet to find profitability in an array of businesses that it has entered beyond those it has dominated, spanning software and video distribution.

Finding the company's way in the new era will largely fall to the successors to Bill Gates, who announced Thursday that he would leave his day-to-day role at Microsoft in two years. But Gates said on Friday he was confident that the company was positioning itself for success in its fourth decade and beyond.

Microsoft's future, he said, lies in an array of applications that will offer new capabilities. He cited an announcement planned later this month that a browser for its current Microsoft Office business into the telecommunications world by next tightly linking the power of PCs and telephones.

On Thursday, Gates said the company's technical leadership would continue to report to him for only another year before shifting to report to Steven A. Ballmer, the chief executive. Ballmer's immediate challenge is to reassure Wall Street that he is still the right man for the job, something that it remains to take hard work and several successful products.

Ray Ozzie is the veteran computer industry executive to whom Gates is handing the role of chief software architect, and Craig Mundie, a second veteran who has been the designer of the company's government and international strategy, will now formally lead research and strategy. AFP

Blair's partymates want him out next year

LONDON—ALMOST THREE-QUARTERS of Labor Party members want Prime Minister Tony Blair to stand down before September next year, a poll showed on Saturday.

The findings from the first substantial poll of Labor members for a decade revealed the disenchantment among the center-left party's members, whom many have argued helped BROWN, according to The Guardian newspaper, which published the poll.

Political Monitor found that 71 percent of Labor members want Blair to leave office before the ruling party's 2007 annual conference at the end of September next year.

More than one-third of those polled want him to leave in the next three months, before this year's conference.

Blair said in 2004 he would not run in the next election, expected in 2009, but he wanted to serve a full fourth term.

Since then, his ebbing popularity—partly due to anger over the Iraq war and its aftermath—and damaging headlines over government corruption and incompetence have sparked growing calls from party of his party for him to go much sooner.

Many Labor parliamentarians now expect Blair to hand over the party leadership to his likely successor, Finance Minister Gordon Brown, mid-next year after a decade in the job. Blair loyalists, however, suggest he may stay until 2008.

The survey of 1,379 Labor members was commissioned by the Labor Government Accountability—a group of members that says its goal is to put the party "back on a sound footing."

"The biggest single issue in Britain today is the lack of accountability of political power. The checks and balances regarding the prime minister vis-a-vis cabinet government have been all but abandoned," said Labor lawmaker Michael Meacher.

The survey was conducted between June 14-16 via online interviews. The commission said it was the first comprehensive survey of existing and lapsed party members but not only a decade.

The findings were to be presented to supporters of the Compass network which hopes to map out a program for an incoming Brown administration, The Guardian said.

Fifty-five percent of those polled said a leadership contest while Labor was in power would be damaging to the party, of formerly backing a coronation of Brown.

Deputy Prime Minister John Prescott won the backing of party members despite his recent admission of an extramarital affair, with 56 percent saying he should only resign when Blair goes.

The Iraq war proved a thorn in the side for many members with 52 percent saying taking part in the conflict was the party's worst policy mistake since Margaret Thatcher in 1987.

Fifty-three percent of those questioned said the United States and Britain were wrong to go to war against Iraq in 2003 while 37 percent backed the invasion.

Asked to name the Blair government's six worst mistakes since first being elected to power in 1997, 52 percent said the invasion of Iraq, 45 percent said subservience to the United States, 36 percent said public service privatization while 36 percent said refusing to join the euro ran for middle and high earners. Reuters, AFP

BLAIR

'Save the whales' lobby dodges harpoon, defeats Japan

FREDERIC BAS ST GETTY AND MORE—The "Save the Whales" lobby stirred memories of its 1980s heyday Friday thwarting Japan's bid to control the world body banning its commercial whaling ambitions.

Whaling opponents Australia, the United States, New Zealand, Brazil and Britain led resistance to Tokyo's drive for a simple majority of pro-whaling states in two votes on the International Whaling Commission (IWC).

Their triumph was an eleventh hour surprise, as many activists and ministers were downbeat about Japan's apparent victory, hours before the IWC annual meeting opened here.

"So far we have managed to dodge the harpoon, but let's see how things go for the rest of the week," said Dr. Jeff Singh of the International Fund for Animal Welfare at the IWC annual meeting in São Carlos do Pinhal.

Mike Townsley, a Greenpeace spokesperson told AFP: "It is clear Japan has failed to take over the IWC."

Tokyo has made repeated bids to lead pro-whaling nations to power in the IWC, but this year, both sides of the negotiation believed Japan's time had come.

A non-decade-old moratorium on commercial whaling is not under immediate threat—it needs a 75 percent majority in the IWC to be overturned.

But whaling opponents fear a simple voting majority here would enable Japan to use the IWC from conservation body into a "whaling club."

Japan argues the moratorium on commercial whaling has been so successful that whaling of certain species can now be carried out without harming whale stocks.

Currently, Japan conducts "scientific whaling" which is permitted by the IWC, along with Iceland. Norway rejects the moratorium entirely. It will around 2,000 whales are taken globally per year.

Ian Campbell, Australia's environment minister said Friday's vote gave it some whaling opponents had pushed the chance to the moratorium" down the line."

"The great victory for whales we have had today so far, is we have raised the levels of understanding of this issue to levels which have probably not been seen since the 1970s."

The demise of Japan's plans was put down to the absence of Sugo and Gambia. Sources told AFP both would have been in Japan's camp, but they did not show up in time.

Had they been there, Japan probably would have secured enough votes to take an early grip on the meeting.

As it was, a proposal to introduce an outright ban on whaling by 33 votes to 30. A second vote to ban the IWC from discussing measures to protect small cetaceans, such as porpoises and small whales was also narrowly defeated—by 32 votes to 30 with one abstention.

Both items were considered key to Japan's attempts to establish a solid pro-whaling majority on the commission for the first time since the moratorium came into force two decades ago.

Japanese sources said they had not given up hope of carving out a majority for pro-whaling nations on other issues at the five-day conference.

Financial debate is expected on Saturday on its proposal for "normalization" which Japan's opponents fear is whale hunting by another name.

In a document obtained by AFP, Japan signaled it would push for a separate meeting of pro-whaling nations in disguise a possible return to commercial whaling outside IWC auspices before the annual meeting next year.

Earlier, Japan warned it would pull out of the organization if there was no progress towards its goals "within a few years."

Japan also hoped to claim a go by on the IWC at last year's meeting by South Korea, but several countries spoke in vote with the pro-whaling bloc did not appear to pay their annual dues so could not vote.

Green campaigners accuse Japan of bribing small, developing states like Cambodia or Mongolia which have little interest in whaling, to join the commission to swell its ranks.

They fear a majority for pro-whaling states would allow Japan to chip away the commercial whaling ban and throw open commercial groups out of the meeting.

Tokyo denies claims it bribes small states with aid, pointing out that it also helps many countries which oppose whaling, such as India and Argentina. AFP

The WORLD

Edna Lawrence B. Olaroa

FRAGILE CALM. Postcard-perfect photo of the Bosphorus Passage in Alaska, June 17. An official report claims US is unprepared for a huge crisis. AFP

America unprepared for major emergency

New tragedy can overwhelm US, says report

WASHINGTON—THE UNITED STATES IS NOT PREpared to cope with a large-scale terrorist attack or a powerful hurricane, the US Department of Homeland Security said in a report published Friday.

The Immediate Plan Review, conducted in response to directives from President George W. Bush and Congress, examined whether the emergency plans of states and cities were adequate to manage another tragedy.

"The majority of the nation's current emergency operations plans and planning processes cannot be characterized as fully sufficient to manage catastrophic events," the report said.

"Significant weaknesses in evacuation planning are an area of profound concern," it said, adding that the responsibilities to receive and care of large numbers of evacuees were found to be "inadequate."

The Department of Homeland Security said it is a matter of "when, not if" the next catastrophic event occurs.

But the review findings "demonstrate the need for all levels of government across the country to improve emergency operations plans for catastrophic events such as a major terrorist attack or top category five hurricane strike," it said.

"Several areas, including evacuation, attention to populations with special needs, command structure and resource management, were areas needing significant attention," it said.

The report also lists measures the federal government needs to take to prevent and coordinate disaster planning.

The findings "unequivocally support the need to modernize planning processes, products and tools, and to move our national emergency planning efforts to the next level needed for catastrophic events," said George Foresman, the department's undersecretary for preparedness.

"It is a natural evolution toward working together as a nation to implement the lessons from national events such as the Sept. 11 attacks and Hurricane Katrina," he said in a statement.

Authorities at all levels of government were blamed over their response to Hurricane Katrina which killed 1,300 people and displaced tens of thousands along the US Gulf coast in August last year.

The city of New Orleans is still struggling to recover and engineers have **warned its levees may not withstand** another Katrina-style battering.

Some groups want Louisiana to repartially vulnerable to hurricanes this season, because erosion accelerates the rate away a chunk of Louisiana's coastal wetlands the size of a football field every 38 minutes.

Scientists and environmental activists say that this weekend's storm can't hurt levees against hurricanes. AFP

Italian prince Victor Emmanuel arrested

ROME—PRINCE VICTOR EMMANUEL, SON OF Italy's last king, was arrested on Friday on suspicion of links to criminals involved in corruption and prostitution, the Ansa news agency said.

The 68-year-old prince, son of King Umberto II, was arrested on the order of a magistrate in Potenza, southern Italy, on suspicion of "conspiracy to commit corruption, forgery" and involvement in organizing prostitution, the agency said.

He is being held in connection with inquiries into a traffic in slot machines and the "involvement" of prostitutes for a casino in Campione d'Italia, an Italian exclave in the south of Switzerland, Ansa said.

"I am stunned," Emmanuel Filiberto, Victor Emmanuel's son, told Italian television, talking of "yet another publicity stunt."

"I hope (the prosecutor) is sure of his charges, or it will be the last time he does anything," said Filiberto, who is married to French actress Clotilde Coureau.

"They took him, they removed his mobile phone and are in the process of taking him to Potenza. They treated him like a bandit. You don't treat a man of 73 with health problems like that."

Victor Emmanuel of Savoy made an official return to Italy in March 2003, after 56 years of exile imposed on the family of his grandfather King Victor Emmanuel III, who ruled from 1900 to 1946 and died in 1947, for its support of the fascist regime of Benito Mussolini.

The constitutional ban on a return to Italy by male heirs of the kingdom of Savoy was lifted in July 2002 by the national parliament.

Victor Emmanuel, whose father Umberto II reigned briefly as Italy's last king in 1946, was detained near Lake Garo in northern Italy close to the Swiss border. Twelve other people were detained or placed under house arrest, among them Salvatore Sottile, the spokesperson of former Foreign Minister Gianfranco Fini.

Also held were three casino managers from Messina in Sicily and the mayor of Campione.

The prosecutor in Potenza, Henry John Woodcock, has made no comment but the magistrate responsible for confirming the arrest warrants, Alberto Iannuzzi, said due inquiry had been "delicate" and lasted more than two years.

"The 12,000 or so pages of the arrest warrant that I signed after carefully evaluating the facts given to me by the prosecutor speak for themselves," he said announcing Filiberto's "publicity stunt" charge.

"We are surprised and appalled at what has happened," said Alberto Cisot, national secretary of the national monarchy movement.

Victor Emmanuel has had trouble with the law in the past. He was arrested on the French Mediterranean island of Corsica in 1978 after firing at a young fireman with whom he had had an argument and who died some months later from his wounds. AFP

FRENCH Victor Emmanuel of Savoy in undated photo. The prince returned to Italy in March 2003, after 56 years of exile.

Chechen rebel 'president' killed

GROZNY, RUSSIA—The self-declared Chechen rebel "president," who had eluded Russian soldiers for years, has been killed, officials in the Moscow-backed Chechen government told AFP here Saturday.

"Yes, I confirm this information," Muslim Khudyev, a minister without portfolio in the Chechen government, told AFP.

The media said Sadulayev was killed in a "special operation" that took place in the Chechen city of Argun, east of the Chechen capital Grozny, but further details on that operation were immediately available.

Chechen Prime Minister Ramzan Kadyrov characterized the killing of Sadulayev as a major success in the Russian fight against Chechen rebels, Interfax news agency said.

"The terrorists have practically been beheaded," Interfax quoted him as saying. "They have been dealt a decisive blow from which they will never recover."

The Kremlin-backed Chechen president, Mr. Alkhanov hailed the reported killing of Sadulayev.

"We will be never any kind of president," Interfax quoted Alkhanov as saying.

"He was the leader of a group of bandits. He and his accomplices have the blood of many peaceful civilians on their conscience and his liquidation already demonstrates the end that awaits terrorists. Chechnya will become to."

Sadulayev, thought to be in his mid- to late-30s, was chosen in March 2005 to succeed the previous Chechen rebel "president," Aslan Maskhadov, after he was also killed by Russian special forces. AFP

Department of Environment and Natural Resources
Pasig River Rehabilitation Commission
2/F Engineering Building, MWSS Compound
Katipunan Road, Balara, Quezon City
Telephone Nos.: 920-0101/02; 920-4220/4/5
Telefax: 920-4220/4/5; 920-4221/4/5

INVITATION FOR BIDS

Project: Pasig River Environmental Management and Rehabilitation Sector Development Program (PAMARSDEP)
Loan No.: Asian Development Bank (ADB) Loan No. 1749-PHI
Subject: Civil Works and Procurement for San Joaquin Creek Flow and Pinto Station Drop San Joaquin, Pasig City

1. The Government of the Philippines (GOP) has received a loan from the ADB toward the cost of PAMARSDEP and intends to apply part of the proceeds for payments under the contract for which this invitation is issued.
2. The Pasig River Rehabilitation Commission (PRRC) as the executing agency now invites bonded Filipino entities to the following to contract package:

Contract Package:	Civil Works and Procurement of San Joaquin Creek Flow and Pinto Station Drop, San Joaquin, Pasig City
Contract No.:	SDP-CW-006
Location:	Brgy. San Joaquin, Pasig City
Contract Duration:	180 Calendar Days
Project Description:	Civil Works and Procurement for San Joaquin Creek Flow and Pinto Station, which include the following items of work: Materials, Earthworks, Site Improvement, Paving and Surfacing, Box Culverts, Bridge, Retaining Walls, Landscaping, Miscellaneous Civil Works, Mechanical Works, Electrical Works, Pumping Station, Instrumentation Works, Surveys, Pumping Station, Electrical Works, Protective Measures, Geotechnical Testing and Occupational Safety

3. Interested Bidders may obtain the Bid Documents and submit their bid as follows:

Activity	Date	Time	Venue
Issuance of Bid Documents, Deposits on the Bid Documents, Pre-Bid Conference, Submission and opening of bids	Starting June 19, 2006	From 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.	PRRC 2/F MWSS Engineering Bldg. Katipunan Road, Balara, Quezon City
Receiving of additional clarifications, if any, and issuance of Bidding Documents	Starting June 19 to July 28, 2006	From 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.	
Site Inspection	July 19, 2006	10:00 a.m.	To introduce to Brgy. San Joaquin, Pasig City
Pre-Bid Conference	July 19, 2006	2:00 p.m.	PRRC 2/F MWSS Engineering Bldg. Katipunan Road, Balara, Quezon City
Deadline for submission of Bids	July 31, 2006	10:00 a.m.	PRRC 2/F MWSS Engineering Bldg. Katipunan Road, Balara, Quezon City
Opening of Bids	July 31, 2006	10:30 a.m.	PRRC 2/F MWSS Engineering Bldg. Katipunan Road, Balara, Quezon City

4. The Government of Philippines and Commercial banks (GOCB) and the City of Pasig would not be implementing agencies of the contract.
5. Bidding will be conducted through international competitive bidding procedures (ICB) as specified in the Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR) of Republic Act 9184 (RA 9184), otherwise known as the "Government Procurement Reform Act". In the event it is considered with Asian Development Bank's (ADB) Guidelines on Procurement under ADB Loans, as specified in the Guidelines for Procurement under Asian Development Bank Loans.
6. The attention is invited to the Philippine Government's policies and rules as part of the Technical Requirements of the Bidders as stated in the Bidding Documents.
7. The Bids and Awards Committee (BAC) reserves the right to accept or reject any Bid and to annul the bidding process and reject all Bids at anytime prior to contract award, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected Bidder or Bidders.

(Sgd.) **ENRILO N.B. CONTRERAS**
Executive Director

Pasig River Rehabilitation Commission
2/F MWSS Engineering Bldg. Katipunan Road, Old Balara, Quezon City 1105
Tel. Nos.: 920-0101 and 920-4220
Email Address: prrc@mwss.com.ph
Fax No.: 920-4220
(PRRC Code B-2006)

SMALL BUSINESS GUARANTEE AND FINANCE CORPORATION
Republican and Acquired Assets Management Group

INVITATION TO BID

The following properties are offered for sale thru PUBLIC BIDDING on JUNE 30, 2006.

Asset Code	Lot/Blk/Bldg	TCT No.	Description	Minimum Bid Price
MAYBALO	Lot 1	T-12345	Residential lot located at Sitio Maybalo, Brgy. Sto. Niño, Bocaue, Bulacan (Lot)	P 500,000.00
LA MESA	Lot 2	T-67890	Residential lot located at Sitio La Mesa, Brgy. Tabing Ilog, Guiguinto, Bulacan (Lot)	P 450,000.00
BAHAY-CLUB	Lot 3, Blk 1	T-54321	Residential lot located at Brgy. San Agustin, Bocaue, Bulacan (Lot)	P 1,200,000.00
FARMHOUSE	Lot 4	T-98765	Agricultural lot located at Brgy. Mo. Ma., Malolos, Bulacan (Lot)	P 800,000.00
OREGON CITY	Lot 5, Blk 2	T-11223	Residential lot located at Sitio Bahay Na Bato, Brgy. Tabing Ilog, Guiguinto, Bulacan (Lot)	P 650,000.00
OREGON	Lot 6	T-44556	Residential lot located at Sitio Bahay Na Bato, Brgy. Tabing Ilog, Guiguinto, Bulacan (Lot)	P 650,000.00

Type of Equipment	Description	Minimum Bid Price
Dump truck, 6-wheeler, 10-cubic meter capacity	Isuzu, 2005 model, 6HK1 engine, 10-cubic meter capacity, with hydraulic dump body, color white, plate no. ABC 1234, engine no. 6HK1-123456, chassis no. JALC4B14X57123456, with spare tire and tools, odometer reading 45,000 km, with valid registration and insurance	P 1,500,000.00
Passenger van, 15-seater	Toyota Hiace, 2004 model, 2.5L diesel engine, automatic transmission, color silver, plate no. XYZ 5678, engine no. 2KD-7890123, chassis no. JTFSK22P540012345, with aircon, AM/FM radio/CD player, odometer reading 62,000 km, with valid registration	P 1,200,000.00
Motorcycle, 125cc	Honda XRM 125, 2006 model, 125cc engine, color red, plate no. 1234-AB, engine no. JC39E-1234567, chassis no. MLHJC3900600123456, with side mirrors and helmet lock, odometer reading 1,200 km, with valid registration	P 75,000.00

GENERAL CONDITIONS

1. Interested bidders may inspect the properties during office hours and obtain further information from the Asset Disposition Unit, 12/F SBGFC Corporate Center, 130 Amorsolo St. Salcedo Village, Makati City. Contact No. (02)8817-21-33 local 1205. Bidders may also visit SBGFC's website at www.sbgfc.com.ph.
2. Bidders shall be required to submit a bid deposit in the form of cash, manager's check or cashier's check in the amount of 10% of the bid price, which shall be forfeited in favor of SBGFC if the successful bidder fails to pay the balance of the bid price within the prescribed period.
3. The SBGFC reserves the right to reject any and all bids, to waive any defect therein, and to accept the offer most advantageous to the Corporation, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected bidders.
4. Terms of payment: Cash or bank financing. Bidders who intend to finance their purchase must secure a pre-approval letter from the bank before the bidding.
5. The winning bidder shall pay the documentary stamp tax, transfer taxes, and other fees and charges incident to the transfer of title to the property.
6. The property is sold on an "as is, where is" basis. The SBGFC makes no warranties, express or implied, as to the condition of the property.
7. Bidders are encouraged to inspect the property and conduct their own due diligence before submitting their bids.
8. The winning bidder shall be notified in writing within 5 working days after the bidding. The SBGFC will execute the Deed of Sale upon full payment of the bid price and compliance with all requirements.
9. The SBGFC reserves the right to withdraw this invitation at any time without prior notice.

(Sgd.) **ROSARIO G. LOPEZ**
Chairperson, BAC

WHAT'S INSIDE
■ Woods misses first Major cut as a pro /A36

Sunday SPORTS
Editor Teddyboy S. Malasaludes

Harbour Centre bags PBL Unity Cup crown

Yeo helps P'masters become lowest-seeded champs

By Jasmine M. Payo

IT WAS A CHAMPIONSHIP NO one could have predicted.

Harbour Centre got the 8th it needed from Joseph Yeo and became the lowest-seeded team to win a Philippine Basketball League title after a 77-66 victory yesterday gave the Batmannen the Unity Cup at the jampacked Ultimate Sports Center in Dasmariñas.

It was a sensational feat for Yeo, named Pivotal Player of the series, as he pumped in 23 of his 28 points from beyond the arc in the classic encounter that decided the best-of-five series, 3-2.

Finals Most Valuable Player (A. Tenorio also capped his impressive series-performance with 17 points, three rebounds and four assists.

"Joseph clicked from the outside, that was the factor," said Harbour Centre coach Jorge Gallent.

It was a steep climb to the top for the sixth-seeded Batmannen, who were playing only in their third conference.

Before outlasting the top-seeded Toyota Otis, the young crew overcame Cyrano Green's twice-to-beat advantage in the quarterfinals and knocked out Mercuela in the best-of-three semifinal series, also going the full route.

"We realized our dream," said team owner Mike Romero. "I thank Jorge Gallent and the boys, especially Lit and Joseph."

"We picked up in the second round of the season," noted Gallent. "They realized that offense won't win games but defense. We became a better defensive team."

But clearly, it was offense that spelled the difference in Game 5.

The Batmannen drilled in 26 points from the three-point area, while the Sparks could only muster six. Five of Harbour Centre's triples came in the opening of the fourth period that opened up a 68-57 lead heading into the final 4:50.

Yes, the former La Salle ace who is renowned for his ability to come through in the clutch, big time of the seven triples he threw during the game.

The Sparks still had time to catch up, but couldn't come closer than five points the rest of the way even if the Batmannen missed seven of the total 13 free throws awarded them.

Also unfortunate for the Sparks was the absence of starting forward Aaron Aban, who sat on the bench for the second straight game due to a fractured wrist. Jon Ordonez, who won the MVP award, paced the Sparks with 14 markers.

Tenorio shot 4-6 points in a 12-9 run that turned an 61-61 deadlock to a 20-11 advantage.

Coming off the break, JV Casio provided instant offense for the Sparks to cut the deficit by five, 20-15, at the end of the first period.

Still drowning for margin, the Batmannen turned to Ryan Arana for a 29-22 edge, with 9:07 minutes remaining.

But the closing minutes of the first half turned out to be a different story. The Batmannen just couldn't connect and crashed at 29-30 after the Sparks rallied on a 14-8 run.

When a historic jumper ended the Batmannen' scoring drought, a free triple provided even more relief as they trimmed the deficit to a four, 34-30, at halftime.

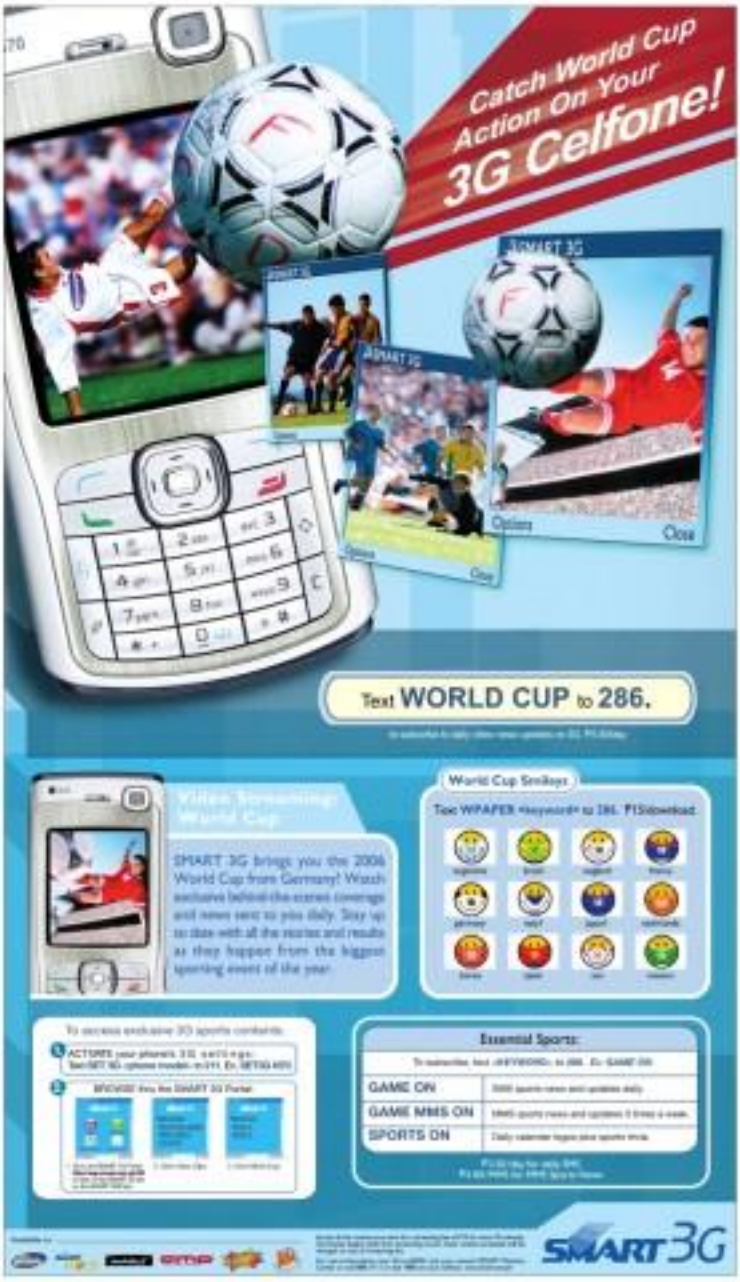
Scores

HARBOUR CENTRE 28—Yeo 28, Norwin 11, Abueva 9, Arana 7, Dela 5, Chavez 4, Lyman 3, Cortina 2, Mamaluba 0, Gabat 0.

TOYOTA OTIS 66—Tenorio 19, Casio 14, Ando 8, Lanong 6, Wilkins 6, Bautista 4, Dela 4, Mercuela 4, Ermond 3, Rodriguez 2, Arriola 0.

Quarters: 20-15, 34-30, 61-61, 77-66

HARBOUR Centre head coach Jorge Gallent is convenient personified after steering the Batmannen to their first PBL title.



Spring Cooking Oil cagers rule Bahrain tourney

MANAMA, BAHRAIN — THE PHILIPPINES' Spring Cooking Oil basketball team has dropped Bahrain's national team, 97-67, Friday to rule the 6th Bahrain ZIP Goodstuff Games at the Ahli Sports Club arena here.

The Cooking Oil Masters of NBC president Nathaniel "Nat" Padilla jumped to early leads of 13-6 and 25-1 before taking a commanding 53-14 first quarter edge and never wavered.

A majority crowd of nearly 5k, Spring Cooking workers cheered lustily the toughness as the Cooking Oil Masters outpowered and outhustled their cadets rivals.

Ex-collegian Alderic Marzano drove for 8 points, shooting six-of-six from three-point range en route to 22 points and Gilbring can noon smiles.

Pennie Red Bull star Nelson Sangerman had another big night, finishing with 17 points and eight rebounds, while ex-pro Danny Capulong contributed 17 points, including a triple which downed cold water on Bahrain's rally that narrowed the gap to 77-102.

"The boys fought hard. They did not let our countrymen down," said coach Alben "Bong" Garcia. "Defense was the key. We pressured them from the start and limited their gunners. After three quarters, they could score only 46 points."

Team owner Padilla, a prominent national director, congratulated his boys from Manila. "You did our country proud," said Padilla. "I'm happy that you were able to overcome our kababayan and prove to them that Filipinos are still among the best in Asian basketball."

Bahrain Basketball Association president Sheik Mohammad and Philippine Ambassador Nelia Hughes presented the trophy to Spring delegation head Tito Mina and coach Garcia.

The Filipinos are scheduled to arrive at 4 p.m. today.

The scores:

SPRING 53—Marzano 22, Asprion 9, Capulong 17, Garcia 12, Red 7, Cpendiian 2, Reyes 1, Ros 2, Antonio 2.

BAHRAIN 67—Ahmed Al Mohsen 32, Mohammed Hassan 14, Hussain Saeed 11, Ali Ibrahim 7, Ali Ibrahim 3, Salem Jaber 1, Kadhem Hussain 0.

Quarters: 25-14, 53-31, 53-46, 97-67

Jungolfers off to Singapore Asean meet

NINE LOCAL JUNIOR POLFERS LEAVING TODAY FOR SINGAPORE TO COMPete in the 5th Association of Southeast Asian Nations (Asean) Schools Golf Championships at the Sentosa Country Club. Making up the contingent that will vie for the colors of the Junior Golf Foundation of the Philippines are Regina de Guzman, Pauline Delos, Kaisa Mangahas-Ando Cruz, Beverly Mendoza, Chris Jocelyn Manuel, Gabriel Villareal, Nicolas Fritzen Simbu, Hans Hernandez and Marvin Lim Mendoza. Hosted by the Singapore School Sports Council under the Ministry of Education, the tournament will feature team and individual competitions for boys and girls. Meanwhile, participants in the annual Junior World championships in San Diego, California, on July 9-15 are invited to leave a tentative voice-out week.

THE HARBOUR Centre Portmasters and their supporters jubilate after winning the PBL Unity Cup yesterday. Story on Page A13

Long respite worries SMB; Purefoods ready for battle

THE LONG LAYOFF COULD BECOME DISASTROUS for San Miguel Beer, for Purefoods, the three-week vacation is a welcome respite.

The Brewmen and the Giants will resume their championship bid against reprieve rivals from their quarterfinal sweeps when the PBA Philippine Cup semifinals start today at the Araneta Coliseum.

Topnotcher Purefoods enters thinks at 4:30 p.m. while San Miguel Beer takes on Red Bull in a best-of-seven semifinal affair at 6:30.

With a history of downing down after a protracted break, the second-seeded Beermen are expected to grope for form with four of the team's leading scorers recovering from injuries.

Danny Seigle is above the injury list. The mainstay leader this conference was hit by back spasms after late night, bright in a doubleheader, according to Sun Miguel assistant coach Dreylan Montalbo.

In contrast, the Giants are up and about following a sweep of hapless Red plagued them after the elimination round.

Ronby Raymundo, Jun Limpot and Noy Castillo got the much-needed time and rest for recovery. The Giants also signed up Dan Gamalo to add another dimension to their rotation.

"The long break definitely worked for us because we had time for the injuries to recuperate," said Purefoods coach Ryno Dragon. "It's going to be a tough matchup against Alaska but we'll be ready."

Gamalo, still in decent shape, the Aces had enough time to heal from injuries and tell-tale those strained muscles after wrapping up their series against the Tigers in four games.

The only liability the Aces will have is the crowd-legend Hagedorn opposing after burning his name in Game 3 of the quarterfinals. Alaska, however, has Game 1 of Hagedorn to weather through surgery and miss two games at the most.

The Aces fan against the Giants in their two meetings in the classification round. But that was before the Aces came up with a blockbuster deal that had them acquiring Willie Miller and John Ferrells.

GAMES TODAY (Araneta Coliseum)
4:30 p.m. — Purefoods vs Red Bull
6:30 p.m. — San Miguel Beer vs Alaska

Game 1 if the match-up has four periods.

INQUIRER Golf

SANDBAGGER?

INQUIRER GOLF pays tribute to those who are not first out the rees and women who made the most significant improvements with their handicaps this year in the June issue of the country's most widely read golf magazine.

PLUS!
- Scott Strange's victory in the Philippine Open at Wack Wack
- The US Open at Winged Foot
- A preview of the 2006 Federation League
- Club events and a lot more...

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SPORTSWATCH

Magallanes benefit golf June 26

"ODYSSEY TO HEAVEN," A GOLF TOURNAMENT SPONSORED BY THE St. Alphonsus Mary de Liguori Parish of Magallanes Village, will be on June 26 at the Sta. Rosa Golf Country Club in Cabuyao, Laguna. A golf clinic starts at 8 o'clock with a shotgun start at 9 a.m. An make-apart mini trophies are valuable prizes such as tickets from Philippine Airlines, Mizuno golf equipment, Union ZIP Tek instant TV set, home appliances, electronic goods and refreshment plus a Yamaha golf cart courtesy of Karl Francisco, ice cream in cone. The event, chaired by lawyer Manuel G. Chan Jr., is part of a year-long drive for the building of the parish church which burned down in 2004. Contact St. Alphonsus Parish office at 807-8228.

Asuncion skip JVC Open

TOPNOTCHER ALLYSEL PAMPOLINA OF THE CENTRO PEGUCLUB AMATEUR company, former professional hooks the PTT tables JVC Open Badminton Championships which gets underway July 7-9 at the Marietta Activity Center. The Asuncion bonded to win the first last year and ran away with the singles and mixed doubles crowns with Kennie winning the women's doubles title in a team up with Flora Dathuna. The brother-sister tandem is also coming off a runner-up finish in the mixed Diego Montana Philippine Open and a couple of championships in Australia and New Zealand last month. Their appearance would make this race for the top PTS,000 purse wide open with Kenzo Wako and national team mainstay Irene Chio expected to lead the battle in the women's singles and RP team members Jason Jones and Lloyd Ivanovic favored to spearhead the title hunt in the men's side.

3-point, free throw contest postponed

THE PINANGO 3-POINT AND FREE THROW SHOOTING CONTEST, A JOINT project with the DTI of Manila headed by Mayor Jose Atienza Jr. and Arnold "Ali" Atienza, Presidential Assistant for Youth and Sports and Chair of the Manila Olympic Committee, has been postponed to July 1 or 2. It was to be held on June 24 in Malate. PSBA president Jose C. Concepcion III and sports and fellowship committee chair Clarence Aytona can't substitute a still open. For details, call 562-8000-05, 3009-470-8200 or 3007-474-8211.

Rich Makati cockfest slated

ANOTHER RICH COCKFEST, THE SALPANANSA SWEEPSTAKES 1-COCK DERBY, kicks off the Makati Coliseum on July 10, 12, 14, 17, 19 and 22 with a guaranteed purse of P1 million plus a brand new Ford Escape. Promoters Lito Orillaza, Rudy Salud and William Co of MCI Sports and Entertainment Corp. pegged the entry fee at P150,000 and expressions of interest at P5,000. Bet the Derby Open of Salpanansa Sabong Derby and Kickoff, where three-cock battles are staged in six eliminations. Reach Merlie at Jaime (2004 Manila), Richard Yatco and Col. Estrijkal (Governing Magbabanog) and the All Gold Cup team (All Angeles Man). Meanwhile, the Pinoy Cockers Association of the Philippines (PCAP) 3-cock derby leads off at 2 p.m. tomorrow with some 10 fights lined up. For info, call 896-3245 and 896-9476.

Topacio eyes Cocker of the Year title

JUN TOPACIO OF DAVAO, WINNER OF 10 OF 11 CLASS-BRACKET SERIES, will go for his first-ever Cocker of the Year title when the DCAP Grand Championship 4-cock derby unfolds on Wednesday, June 21 at San Juan Coliseum. Topacio is Sagupan Champion 2006. The 2006 Cockers Association of the Philippines (CACP) Cocker of the Year winner will be known after the derby on Wednesday and shall receive a silver cup and cash prize. Topacio's entry, 21 3-cocks currently leads the race with 39 points followed by Sportsmen's Pardug (21 1/2 of Rep. Bulols Pelayo and Ray Gordon), Magsaysay Complainer 3000 (16 1/2 of Rep. Antonio Aquino) for Dado (15 1/2 of Gary Ramos. 30 65 PBC Initiation (26 1/2 of Allan Diaz and LCC Leonard (26) of Louie Cua. Others in the top 10 list are the entries of Boy Pinoy, Bonjie Lim and Pat Estrabelo, as Fernando and Angelo Brothers and Manny Pacquiao. For more inquiries, please call 725-0388 and 725-8683 or 09151691807. (Jack Ke Flores)

CATANDUANES Gov. Leandro Verzosa Jr. (center) wins first place in the Oakley and Stoked Inc. Wakeboarding Competition, Men's Novice Division, held at Talisay, Mts. Taal, Batangas. Photo: Bellaso (left) were second place and Herman Rama in third place.

Orcollo takes 2nd in US tilt

MONEY GAME KING DEDDIE "BUBOAO" Orcollo placed second in the recent One Pocket event of the Reed Times Jamboree Ambrosio Thursday at the Reed Times Billiards Hall in Sacramento, California, USA.

After beating his first foes at the hands of Mark Haddad (3-1) in the winners' bracket to emerge as lone obstacles until arrival of Tony Chohan of California in the race-to-3 finals, double-elimination format.

Chohan, known as "I-Bet" in the pocket-ate, beat Orcollo in the championship round, 5-1.

"Medyo kinapos nyo kay Tony (Chohan)," said Orcollo, playing under the stable of businessman Perry Mariano, who pocketed $1,500.

"This proves that Bonato isn't good only for the 8 and 9 ball events," said Mariano. "Imagine this is his first crack in the one pocket and yet he gained second."

Aside from Orcollo and Valle, also under Mariano's stable, other Filipinos who competed are Celtonio Manny Warren Ramos, Filipino legend Jose "Amang" Parico and Ramon Bandojan, both residing in California.

Last week, Orcollo topped the 2004 Reno Open and received the top purse of $12,500.

STUNT: Yamaha MotoGP rider Valentino Rossi in the second free practice at the Catalonia Motorcycling Grand Prix in the Montmelo racetrack near Barcelona, Spain. AFP/EPA

Garcia an FM at 10; Pimentel takes gold

PRECOCIOUS EMMANUEL GARCIA of Imelda, Manila, and sculptor Joel Pimentel of Bacolod City topped their respective divisions to earn gold medals and Fide Master titles in the 7th ASEAN Age-Group Chess Championships yesterday at the Mercure Convention Center in Jakarta, Indonesia.

Samantha Glo Reyes of Bonifacio, Bangsamoro, and Chandler Chandee Camacho of Cebu, La Union, chipped in a bronze medal each as the Philippines made a good account of themselves in its third play.

The 13th-seeded Air Emmanuel, son of lawyer Fleurel Garcia, expertly handled the black pieces to beat 8th-seeded Dang Hoang Son of Vietnam after 50 moves of a Modern Defense and capture the boys' 12 and under title with 7.5 points to nine percent of play.

"Talaga pong pinilit kong manalo," said Garcia, who became the country's youngest FM ever at 10. "Dream kong na gold na para target ko ang next-eight FM title kaya more sole-attention ako."

Another while kid, Wesley So was 11 when he got his FM title.

Garcia also beat 2nd-seeded Foo Zhi Bang Benjamin of Singapore in the eight-round last Friday.

The 24th-seeded Pimentel, on the other hand, clinched the outright FM title and the country's first gold medal as early as Friday after bulging the point with Nguyen Ha Thanh of Vietnam. Pimentel also made an 11 moves-draw against 27th-seeded M. Ilyas of Indonesia in their final-round outing the Vilma-Indian Defense to score 7.5 points in the boys' 14 and under.

"Nagpapasalamat po ako kay Bro. Bolly Ghosn at Mr. Jose Sanchez," said Pimentel. "Sila po kasi ang nanalong sa kampanya ko dito. Pinaparamdam din ang mga magulang ko."

The 13th-seeded Tarsila Jemiel Nik-seeded Hayley Ong Michelle of Singapore to score 6.0 points and grab the bronze medal in the girls' 9 and under. "Inaasam lamang po," said the 8-year-old Nikka, the youngest IM age-group recruits.

The 3rd-seeded Camacho, on the other hand, downed 14th-seeded Ju Hoa Dac Uyen of Vietnam to notch 7.0 points in the girls' 12 and under.

Awesome, 8th-seeded Nicky Yoon Jose of Makati City dropped her last round match against eventual winner Gita Rhamma Sukandar of Indonesia (6.0 points) and wound up fourth with 6.0 points.

In other Filipino results, Dado Bermudez of Davao City bowed to Pham Quang Hung of Vietnam to finish at 5.5 points in the boys' 8 and under.

Shiloyan Kenneth Baltazar of Olongapo City also yielded to Le Minh Hoang of Vietnam and ratcheted 4.5 points in the boys' 10 and under.

John Daniel Montero of Panabo, Davao, nipped Nguyen Minh Thuong of Vietnam to finish with 5.5 points in the boys' 16 and under. Shola James Hernaiz of Cambanga City drew with 5th-seeded Nguyen Ngoc Phung of Vietnam to score 5.0 points in the boys 18 and under.

Completing Team Philippines were Miss Maria of Pallan (5.0 points) in the girls 13 and under and Kimberly-Jane Guzman of Angeles City, Pampanga, 6.0 points) in the girls' 16 and under.

PBL honors Welbest franchise

THE TIME TO SHOW ITS APPRO-PRIATE for the seven-San some And Kaite or Shyne can look back with pride at what it accomplished in the nineties' backcourt.

The former Welcoat Paints Inc. was one of the most dominant teams in the Philippine Basketball League, marveling the careers of some of the finest pro talent in the country today.

The likes of Noland Alfaro, Siot-Boo Pilando, Jose Allado, Nancy de Ocampo, Tino Pinpin, Ronald Tolentino, Anthony Peablegion, Lennie Pumaren, Dennis Miranda, Eddie Laure, Celino Cruz, Renato Montero, Gilbert Demape and James Yap have at one time or another donned the jersey of the Welbest franchise.

No wonder those so-called Welcoat bubbly are eagerly awaiting the team's PBA debut in October.

"Bros, sabihin ito lang pala kayo sa PBA, sana nag-laro na lang ako. (I should have waited but I known you're moving up in the PBA)," the 6-foot-0 Barry de Ocampo said, not wanting to threaten his current PBA team, Alaska, but more of a playful jab at his former teams, Welcoat cousins Terry Que and Raymond Yu.

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The franchise won five more championships in 12 finals appearances, putting the team almost in the same breath as the legendary 7Up, Ball clubs like Magnolia in the 80s and Tanduay in the 90s.

Que and Yu, together with Eric Neri, were each presented with a jacket by Commissioner Chito Narvasa during the hour-long ceremony at the Ultimate College Sports Center, symbolic of the league's gratitude for the team's contribution to the growth of the PBL.

TEAM OWNERS Raymond Yu and Tony Que flank the matriarch of the Sun-ar Shoe team, Margaret Yu, after the farewell tribute given by the Philippine Basketball League last Tuesday at the Ultimate Sports Center.

28th perfect game pushes Rivera ahead

POWERED OFF A PERFECT GAME IN THE SECOND GAME, NATIONAL team skipper Silver Rivera led the first block of the Men's Open Class Masters of the 35th PBC-Bayson International Open Tenpin Bowling Championships Friday night at the Greenhills Bowling Center.

The lanes were cleared, the second leadout and bowlers assembled on the instructions of the tournament director as the 32-year-old Rivera completed the 300 game for the 28th perfect game of his career on lanes 11 and 12 just before the strike of midnight.

That catapulted him on top of the first eight-game block with a total of 1900 on lines of 258-200-223-236-233-255-235-246 as four other Filipino competitors jammed the top four of the Masters division. Bowlers play for another eight game block when the top six players make it to the stepladder finals late Saturday.

"That's good for me and I just felt I running right off my throws," said Rivera, the 2002 Busan Asian Games gold winner who used a 15-pound Asprit Charge Storm ball to accomplish the ninth perfect game in the tournament.

Two-time World Champion Kang Hyun-Ho also fired a 300 game earlier that day in the first block of the Ladies' masters. The 23-year-old Kang, the World Masters champ in 2004 in Guam, accomplished it on lanes 29 and 30 during her first game in the eight-game series where she finished with an 1869 total for third place.

Her countryman Rim Eun Jung occupied the pole position with a 1929 total, pacing yet another Korean sweep as Kyoung-ochu had 1920. Thai World Youth champion Angkana Nuvwatch was fourth with 1637.

Gaining in fourth was local bet World titist champ Cecilia Yap who is using up 207-225-227-243-224-213-185-218 for a 1842 total followed by 2004 ASF Test RP leg champ Irene Bautista who tallied 1767 on lines of 200-219-203-204-204-216-206-216. RP veteran Wendy Reyes came in seventh with 1764 total pinfall.

Like old Rosario, the All-Events winner, squeezed into the top 9 with 1755. Bowlers game achiever Gin Chaisiri was 1316-217-17 while Jake Casero wound up 14th with 1690.

Asian top player Shoko Ishiidi limited behind at 17th with a 1671.

Derek Granger, the American coach who is competing under the RP colors, was second with a 1881 total, followed by Japan bowlers Yukihiro Wakabayashi had 1842.

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Meanwhile, Mar Ivnes of Tiniok-Pritos ruled the Men's Doubles Masters event as Ryoun Cheong Moon Jung claimed the Ladies' crown.

Don Exequiel refreshed for Triple Crown

By Manny V. Castillo

DON EXEQUIEL HAS BEEN "PROGRESSED-UP" nicely for a bigger run that would hopefully lead to the second jewel of the prestigious Triple Crown.

The handsome colt ran out of the dominant Hermie Esguerra stables went through a different preparation than previous to come up for the IV Cinquito Gulp-Inquirer Cup over 1,600 meters today on the Santa Ana Park in Makati.

"Of course, he was prepped in a different way, the race being longer," Esguerra said in the inquirer yesterday. "We want his draw a good job, but practical that has to be kept within the limit.

"The only thing that is rare is that Don Exequiel has been freshened up for the race."

Don Exequiel's first leg victory over the mile at Sta Lazaro final weeks ago did not give the Bench Black out of Bella Opaque progeny the credit he deserves.

In fact, it did not even make him the only first pick to take the P2-million leg as around 6:25 this afternoon with quarters leading as Special Edition to finally complete a nose-from behind win.

Ten more Silver Story has risen been a Triple Crown champion and not before this talented 3-0 horse third has shown ever been a notice in wide open, which would make an eventual duel with the seven monster.

Aside from Don Exequiel and Special Edition, others in the hunt for the P1.2 million winner's prize are speedball Million Dollar, Hand To Find, Dixie the Younger, Shining Tiger, Tigres in action, Ay Santos, Mr. Victory and monster Taguiwa entry Santiago.

Ronald Valdez's Special Edition (Don Exequiel, others Esguerra named) after his late fallen stable Dominador Stable plum the favorite Special Edition.

Jockey Ahmad is will handle Sarang Silver, Manolito Tinajas will steer 3rd District and Val Dilema will be holding Dixie The Younger's reins.

Two more big money races are on tap - the PCSO Special Maiden Race at 4:50 p.m. featuring the talented sweepstakers and the fall Bold Ruffled Stakes at 5:30 p.m.

Bakbakin came up with a smart ride atop Bold Ruffled Stakes winner Ego, narrowly nailing the pace-setters before holding off a charging cavalry to the final bend for his second straight victory since a long layoff.

"I had a good trip and I just felt I running right off my throws," said Rivera, the 2002 Busan Asian Games gold winner who used a 15-pound Asprit Charge Storm ball to accomplish the ninth perfect game in the tournament.

Two-time World Champion Kang Hyun-Ho also fired a 300 game earlier that day in the first block of the Ladies' masters. The 23-year-old Kang, the World Masters champ in 2004 in Guam, accomplished it on lanes 29 and 30 during her first game in the eight-game series where she finished with an 1869 total for third place.

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THE PROTAGONISTS: Pacquiao and Larios

NBC semis: Iloilo beats Pagadian

ROXAS, ILOILO – THE TOYOTA-Iloilo Pistons posted another stunner Friday night, this time edging the rusty of the Pagadian Explorers, 86-83, to draw first blood in their best-of-three southern semifinal series in the 2006 Governor Jerusalem-NBC national basketball championship at the Intendencia here.

The Warrior of the Iloilo Basketball League and Mayor Jerry Treñas, who finished the first seen of the southern division at 3-0, battled on Francis Arao's basket in the last 29 seconds to break at 83-83 for each range ahead, 3-0.

"I wouldn't ask for more. I just wish this team would go all the way," said coach John Fresgas, who was scheduled to leave for the United States to join his family.

Down at the CJC Tinga gym in Tagaig City, Bautista Bus Terminal, 74-68, to gain the semifinals of the tourney.

Sharp Pacquiao spars 12 rounds

FILIPINO SUPERSTAR MANNY Pacquiao has reached the crossroads in his preparations in the United States and has declared himself in tremendous shape for his July 2 clash with Mexican Oscar "Ovalado" Larios in the Arizona Coliseum.

Pacquiao sparred for 12 rounds against much bigger foes at the Wild Card gym in Los Angeles yesterday and his handlers led by renowned trainer Freddie Roach, believed that the fight will not last the distance.

"His movements were more visibly sharp," said Filipino trainer Buboy Fernandez in an interview from LA. "He's ready for the fight, even if it goes into deep waters."

Pacquiao downplayed comparisons between his opponents and that of Larios in Japan, who included WBC lightest champ Hozumi Hasegawa and world-ranked Nobuhiko Ishida.

"I know that his opponents are also good, but look, I'm sparring against much bigger boys who are welterweights, junior welterweights and lightweights," Pacquiao said. "His opponents are only bantams and superbantamweights."

The Filipino boxing icon, Fernandez said, has also shown tremendous stamina in road works in Los Angeles, recently conquering a "killer run" which Fernandez describes as a very long uphill road to overcome.

Roach, as well as conditioning coach James Bonnar, also assured in an interview with ABS-CBN that Pacquiao has the tools to win the fight by early knockout, although they are not ruling out the scheduled 12 rounds with the taller boxer-puncher Larios.

Pacquiao's three sparmates—Rustan Magno, Vladimir Tokoy and Shadi Rajendo—have already predicted the Pinoy will negate Larios' advantage between the fourth and eighth rounds, avoiding what they have undergone while sparring against the Parisian.

Meanwhile, Bro. "Pedro" Isabel, Pacquiao's associate who is now in the country, also told the media that the superstar arrives on Tuesday in Manila, he will immediately work out at the Rizal Memorial Coliseum, which should be big enough a place to hold his daily rousing bowling up to 10,000 people, Bulwer-L. Lagumbay contributor

Samsung Tour: Bayron moves up as Aunzo falters

LIBMO—MY BAYRON ASSURED CONtrol by snatching par-72 yesterday even as Gene Bondoc came charging back to boost his drive for an open victory in the Samsung Tour this Friday at the Lakeside Golf and Country Club course here.

Bayron, aiming to finally get his shot in the finals after being denied by Marvin Dumandan in August, followed three birdies and as many bogeys to post a 54-hole aggregate of 210 and a two-stroke lead over ICTSI stalwart Bondoc.

Bondoc, four down at the start of the round, mowed into contention after submitting the day's best round of 70 on nine of 54-36. He came to within one after Bayron bogeyed the 10th but couldn't muster his rally.

Freddie Aunzo, who forged a tie with Bayron after a hot 67 on Friday, figured in a back nine meltdown and recorded 10 bogeys.

Aunzo ballooned to a 79 for a 227, allowing Mark Hernando and Mike Bihon to share the third and fourth spot, tens with 72s.

BAYRON

Hernando and Bihon were at 213 and 215, respectively, in the event co-sponsored by Taylor Made, Callaway, Titleist, Footjoy, Nike, Mizuno, Cobra Golf and Srixon. Media partners are Aim 88.3, Wave 89.1, Magic 89.9 and 99.5 FF. Highlights of the event will be shown on Solar Sports Plus.

Completing the standings were Bobby Jacinto (72) and Nationals Caddies Open standout Joseph Lalupa (76) who were tied at 219, Jessel Abalos (75) at 220 and a three-way tie at 221 including Louie Dumalao (79), Dalbert Bayron (76) and Mikko Ilar (77).

Meanwhile, Rhodex Lo and JP Dumandan ruled the Amateurs Division by topping Clare C and Clare E. respectively, of the meet's division.

Lo 95-89-181, to beat George Elangel (89-93-182) by one. Elangel slipped in from three in the semifinals for the runner-up trophy. Contended transaction round of 98 proved too hot to handle for his rivals. He won by 11 strokes over Prima Lee and Darwin Ardel.

YOUNG HEALTH BUFFS. School kids will share the limelight when the 28th National MILO Marathon holds its elimination race in Metro Manila on July 16 at the Luneta Park.

Lady Stags stun Lady Archers; Lyceum wins

By Marc Anthony Reyes

WALT PAU MISSED, TEBRIG several weeks ago, became scrutiny for San Sebastian yesterday.

The Lady Stags, taking advantage of their scoreboard for and the opponents' weak scores, finally removed La Salle's former choke titist with a 25-13, 17-25, 25-18, 24-22 triumph to stay in the championship course of the Shakey's V League at the Blue Eagles Gym.

Jovelyn Gonzaga gained her role as the challenger of her fellow Thai import Jhelmi Sanchez, firing up the Lady Stags with 20 points, highlighted by two successive spikes that ended the grand impression for the Lady Archers.

It was San Sebastian's eighth win in 12 games, and fourth in the semis as it inched closer to the second finish berth ahead of Adamson which is a 7-4. One more victory will assure San Sebastian of a rubber match for the finals slot.

As expected, the Lady Archers weren't too cautious against the Lady Stags' threat, to performance-ing on several occasions and contributions and attack patterns as they gave up the first set. Having carried the lead's discard to be not with three 11-1 record.

Laurenzi Ann Lutgay and Joy Pelaio supported the Thai sensation with 14 and 11 points for San Sebastian, which entered the game with no margin to defeat to La Salle in the first round of the semis, which blew a two-set lead.

From the opening set on, the Lady Stags dictated the pace against the Lady Archers who seemed their scoring chores among several players instead of hogging their fire in the power-hitting Konthasa.

The Lady Archers had not much pride to lose by straight sets, marking their way to even the match at 1-1 before the Lady Stags claimed the third set through perfectly set plays on clutch on Reuben. The 5-foot-9 hunter then made things in the marathon fourth set, hammering at will to force La Salle to yield.

Milo Marathon begins registration in Manila

THE SEARCH FOR MERU MAY is qualifiers to the 30th National Milo Marathon finals on Dec. 10 is on.

Of the 29 qualifying races, the Metro Manila leg on July 16 is the only elimination leg not run in the 21-kilometer distance. Instead, participants here will compete in the full 42K marathon and will use the same route as the December finals.

In the other legs, only the top three finishers in the men's and women's get slots to the finals. In Manila, those that finished within the qualifying time of four hours for men and four and a half hours for women are qualified to run in the December finals.

Rudy Biscocho, National Milo Marathon organizer and race director for the National MILO Marathon Metro Manila elimination run, said registrations started on June 10 at the ground floor of the Shoppers Boulevard Plaza Bldg., Annapolis St., San Juan.

There are four events up for competition: the 5K edition run for those ages 6 to 12; the 5K Fun Run for schools, colleges and universities; the 10K run and the 42K qualifying run. Participants to the 5K and 10K run should be 13 years and above, while those entering in the 42K qualifying run should be at least 18 years old. Some 15,000 runners are expected to join the leg by 16 Manila elimination run held in partnership with Metrobank Foundation Manila, Ashton, Cebu Pacific, Dept of Tourism, and Powerbar.

Also supporting the run is the Metro Manila Development Authority, the cities of Manila, Pasay, Paranaque, Makati, and Taguig. Mayor Lito Atienza and the Manila office of Alt Atienza has given its full backing for its staging at the Quirino Grandstand and Roxas Blvd.

Buncio: 2 enducross titles

SAN MATEO, RIZAL – JERICO BUNcio proved that he is one of the best young riders on the horizon today when he soared two titles to the 2nd leg of 2006 Enduranzone at the Timberland Heights Raceway in San Mateo, Rizal.

Buncio ruled the Beginner's Production and the Special Event categories in the motorsports festival organized by MPI president Nico A. Panugaite. In the Beginner's Production, Buncio finished off the challenge of eventual runner-up Robert Velasco and third placer Jeffrey Mendez before stamping his class supremacy in the Special Event, where he racked up 25 and 22 points.

Matching Buncio's feat was Rustum Llorens, who won the Enduro-ner and Senior Open categories of the tournament with Filipinas Land Inc., MX Nords and Quadcrusher Pool as major sponsors.

Also hoisting their mark were Glenn Aguilar, Ed Alfonso, Jun Mendoza and Jerry Torres. Aguilar topped the premier Pro Open division, five decades, scored 305 at 49.02, 52.08.03, Jun 40.91.02.96, 49.02.52.08.03, Jun 40.91.02.96, email tgrip@pldt.net and kimberly.pradanos@yahoo.com.

COURTESY CALL. Members of the Philippine junior team to the 12th Southeast Asian Junior Table Tennis Championships in Bangkok, Thailand, pay a courtesy call to Sen. Richard Gordon. The team under the Filipino-Chinese Amateur Athletic Federation brought home a bronze medal courtesy of Khalil Lipsner Cruz and Ian Miguel Lanting in the girls doubles (13 years old and under). (From left) Jose Sy, Rachel Ramos, Charlie Lim, William Gonzales, Gordon, Ian Miguel Lanting, Junior Sy, Khalil Lipsner Cruz, Ranil Rivera and Philip Lim, Philippine Table Tennis Association of the Philippines president), Junior Tan and Marjorie Sy.

ARANETA

Araneta new Iloilo football boss

THE ILOILO FOOTBALL ASSOCIAtion, a member of the Philippine Football Federation, recently elected Marcelino "Boying" Araneta as its new president. Araneta, a 1976 Football awardee in 1984 and skipper of the National Team from 1980 to 1984, replaced Ramsay Balicanilla as the top football executive of the province.

1989 president Johnny Nonnatello said: "Araneta was a staunch ally of the sport."

Araneta's involvement in domestic football includes being a member of the Philippine delegation to the Fifa Congress in 1996, 2000, 2002 and 2004; head of delegation, 1999 Pre-Olympic football elimination in Hong Kong and Japan; head of delegation, 1997 Pre-Olympic football elimination in Guangzhou, China; PFF awardee for football, 1984; referee, 1976 team; 1978, 1980, team captain, 1st team, 1975-1977; member, Executive Council, Philippine Football Federation, 1996-2002; executive vice president, Phil. Football Federation, 1997-2002.

PAZCOGUIN dashes down to win

Pazcoguin proves karting potential

WINNING THE MINIMUM CHOWN in the recent 2004 Asian Karting Open Championship only proved Steve Pazcoguin's potential as one of the country's promising young karters.

The 11 year-old Pazcoguin, a ninth grader at San Beda Elementary Annex, emerged from a tight battle with Art Racing teammate Franco Reyes to repeat his feat in the Asian Karting Open kickoff at the Shah Alam Circuit in Malaysia a month ago. Pazcoguin wrapped up the 12-lap final race in 9:06.212 or 0.140 of a second ahead of Franco.

Steven John Sulit made it a 1-2-3 finish for Art Racing as he clocked in 0.003 seconds behind Franco.

"It feels great scoring off that close battle with Franco," said Pazcoguin, who's backed up by SR Tires and Indomitus.com. "And to win the Mini 80 SE title in the Asian Karting Open makes the race sweeter."

"Definitely, Steve has come of age," said Art Racing head coach Elmer Carpio. " He has shown more control and more focus on the race. But what makes him a young champion reported is his decision drive to win."

Pena, Sy 1-2 in Zhuhai AF3

PENA (right) and Sy: "We did not figure in an ugly way that would have taken us out of the race."

CLAIMING DADO PENA and Tyson Sy were quicker when it mattered most Saturday, completing a one-drag 1-2 finish for the Philippines in the fourth round of the Asian Formula Three Series at the Zhuhai International Circuit here.

They even figured in a wild chase in the final lap of the 12-lap race, exchanging fenders dangerous maneuvers before Pena, of Team Goddard, floored the pedal for one final surge on the race for victory in 19 minutes and 26.400 seconds.

It was hardly the collusive effort served in the race as Indonesian Ali Indrawi, who emerged fastest in the battle for pole position earlier in the day, got off to a perfect start and established a big lead over the Filipinos only to be overtaken just as the race neared the finished flag.

Jackson, who exited the karting championship in Ireland last year and is using the AF3 circuit as his jumping board to a stint in the European series next year, slowed down with less than three kilometers that he later attributed to electrical trouble.

The first ever race since joining the open division last year was worth 20 points for the 18 year-old Pena and improved his total to 44, climbing into a tie for second, from fifth, with Brian James Whelan, who finished fourth in 19:36.456.

Sy, 18, lead driver of Speedtech Asia, settled for 15 and sat atop the driver's standings with 75 points going into the fifth and sixth rounds Sunday.

"When I saw a little opening in it was challenging Tyson. I told myself I'll gonna go for this, but I hope he won too. Luckily Tyson did and we did not figure in an ugly way that would have taken us out of the race," said Pena, whose sister Ines is backed by PGJT, Monsters, MOE Hanjin and Manila Bulletin.

Log on to www.asiaaf3.net and www.philracingpad.net for updates.

Jackson, 27, of Asia Racing, who clocked the fastest time of 1:50.908 in qualifying at the 9.334-kilometer Zhuhai Circuit, was relegated to third and picked up 12 points, improving to fifth from seventh.

The 1.2-liter-displacement AF3 Cup chief Ed Pena, father of Dado, who made his bead see before the race and predicted Filipinos dilemma would dominate the opposition here. "We can expect the same in the road race starts. The race have really some of ego," he said.

By who paced the second best time in qualifying, clocked 19:26.571, just 0.171 seconds behind Pena but was hardly bothered.

"Pareak in ng mata Yung karo kapalan I had to play it safe to rather give space to Dado and remain somehow that we would finish the race and not do stupid things," said Sy. "Since Thursday we were struggling with the set-up in the 130-hp Dado even made a small mistake but he went faster and I know I had to give way in front. It was a 1-2 finish for Filipino drivers. Nothing could be better than that."

Brian Gillan Ballentec, Winston's teammate at Jh Mo. (except finished 10th (19:00.827), followed by Indon Marcus Sampaga (19:41.173) and Jamie Hermanto of BMW Indonesia Pertua who topped the promotion-class in 19:50.751.

Hi-Speed Hearthrobs lure crowd

MATTED Goddard, Lily Hunsinding and Jeff Borja are attractions on and off the tracks.

THREE YOUNG DRIVERS—Lily Hunsinding, Marees Goddard and Jeff Borja—are bringing in the crowd to the 2004 San Miguel Coffee Denim Blues Cup Philippines Touring Car Championship not only because of their good looks but also for their fighting spirit and skills.

Among saving enthusiast, especially ladies, look up to these accident race spot in town, who provide the inspirational drive to live up their dreams.

Following their impressive stint at the Subic International Raceway, they ventured the top "Hi-Speed Heartbeats."

Stealing the limelight from the veterans in the Group 2 division recently was a big accomplishment for these neophytes in touring cars.

The 21 year-old Hunsinding already made his mark as a riders and amateur champion before he entered the touring car scene. Becoming hotshots colleagues during wins in the kidskuff leg, he paired his mates win in Round 3 as he pulled a quick start in front the pole from Goddard and controlled the tempo from thereon.

Goddard, only 16, rose to fame in the 2004 Karter of The Year. He struggled adjusting from karting to touring cars on his debut, but his perseverance paid him well with a first major win in Round 4 of this event contested by the Automobile Association Philippines.

Borja, a Final Lynx Cup top driver, sit rippled with his inexperience but his third place finish in Round 3 proved that talent matters more than a superior set-up.

Macau ace joins Goddard

LOOKING CHONG OF MACAU HAS BEEN tapped to drive for Team Goddard in the Protouch Pan Delta Super Racing Festival the second leg of the Asian Formula Three Series (AF3), which began yesterday in the Zhuhai International Circuit in China's Guangdong Province. Leanong, who won the 2004 Macau Grand Prix Formula Renault Challenge and has also raced in the British formula Three Championship, will be filling in the seat left vacant by Asian Racing Champion Michelle Bumgarner, who is campaigning in Europe. Leanong, returned as the Promotions for race built in 1998, will drive alongside Dado Pena, who is racing in the International Class.Team Goddard principal Mark Goddard said: "Ian happy to have a driver of his experience and being a local driver he has plenty of support on the race track."

Argentines make Serbians cry

Ride goal spree into second round; Netherlands gains

BERLIN—ARGENTINA AND THE NETHERLANDS MADE THE World Cup's toughest group look easy.

The Argentines routed Serbia-Montenegro, 6-0, Friday in the most dominating display so far in this year's tournament. Hitting stars Lionel Messi and Carlos Tevez each made their World Cup debuts and scored late goals.

The Dutch had a harder time against Ivory Coast in the other Group C match and still manhandled a 2-1 win, sending both Argentina and themselves into the second round. Both are expected to go far this year despite getting this difficult draw.

"This is a very good group," Argentina midfielder Esteban Cambiasso said. "The team is solid, and we have a lot of confidence. It couldn't have gone better."

Germany, England and Sweden had already qualified for the knockout stage.

Later Friday, Angola held Ivorian Mexico to a 0-0 draw in Hanover in Group G.

Argentina has won the World Cup twice, with Diego Maradona leading the way in 1986. The former striker was deserving in the stands.

Mark Rodriguez scored two goals in the first half and Cambiasso added a third. Serbia-Montenegro made it 4-0 in the 70th before Tevez and Messi finished off the scoring.

"This was an incredible performance," Rodriguez said.

Seventeen players on the 23-man roster played for Jose Pekerman when he coached his country to world youth titles in 1995, '97 and 2005. Most

ROBIN van Persie of the Netherlands celebrates after scoring his side's opening goal.

THE SCORERS of Serbia and Montenegro-Argentina players who contributed to the 6-0 rout in their World Cup match (clockwise, from left to right): Maxi Rodriguez, Esteban Cambiasso, Rodriguez, who scored two goals, Carlos Tevez, Hernan Crespo, and Lionel Messi.

Robben, Robin: Dutch wings

FRIEDRICHSHAFEN, GERMANY—IT'S "THE Robben and Robin show on the Dutch wings. And it's largely why the Netherlands is in the second round of the World Cup.

Cleveland's Jayne Robben teams the left flank and forward Robin van Persia takes care of the right in Netherlands' 2-1 win over Ivory Coast. And both wingers have a goal and an assist in three for it. They go for the Group C No. 1 spot against Argentina on Wednesday.

"At times, we played great. Excellent combination play, and we can be rightly proud that we have reached the second round," Van Persie said.

Not only did he assist the final that set up his blistering Rodrik goal for the opener, Van Persie never neglected defense and even showed a ball off his own goalline. In reality that was as important as the goal he scored.

His standout performance came in the wake of his criticism after the first win that play should be going more his way. It seems now it is anyone guessing, the results were evident on Friday. The Dutch attack was much more balanced, allowing Van Bronkhorst to shine but not at the cost of Robben.

Dutch great Johan Cruyff came out in praise of 22-year-old Van Persie.

"He was the best and not only because of his goal, but also because of the way he defended," said Cruyff.

Robben and Van Persie have those qualities all great wingers of the past have had.

They have a deft touch on the ball, great dribbling to get past a defender and amazing acceleration to rush into the corner.

Dutch coach Marco van Basten could be proud of the system he wrought. From the start of his coaching career, he wanted a good, old-fashioned 4-3-3, system, recognizable to all players.

With Robben and Van Persie close to the sidelines, it pulls opposing defenses to the outward extremes and creates room in the middle for a power forward like Van Nistelrooy to shoot.

Little wonder the vital cause for Van Nistelrooy's game winner came from Robben, another 22-year old on his team's young squad. AP

ILLAM batters earn World Series ticket

INTERNATIONAL LITTLE LEAGUE Association of Manila (ILLAM) batters made the most of their 10-0 blanking of tigers of Luzon yesterday, riding the Asia Pacific Little League Championship and gaining a way to the World Series 11-11 senior-old division at the Bonifacio Sports Complex in Pasig City.

There was no stopping the ILLAM roosters from claiming their first title win in the division via a sweep of the two-game best-of-three series from the time losing batters Juliano Santos walked seven of the first eight Filipino batters he faced in the bottom of the first inning.

Five of the Filipino batters knocked on freebies ensured the plate that accounted for all the ILLAM runs in the period, with the exception of second base girl Mo. Ildefonso Maldad, who came up with a single to left.

The Filipinos finished off the runners down frames later with a four-run binge on the strength of a two-run single each by catcher Leone Lebanon and shortstop Jasmine Singh, daughter of OF sensation coach Raja Singh.

Taylor-Wright bout up

BRIDGES, TENNESSEE—BRIAN Taylor hasn't fought enough or been around long enough to be considered one of boxing's greats. That would come only through the years, and of the many big fights against the best of his era.

Still to some of those around Troy he, though, and there's a spot holdin' that the squally quiet middleweight champion could be on the cusp of a great career.

Taylor has been plenty tough so far, winning all 20 of his fights and squaring Bernard Hopkins to lessen the unbeaten 160-pound IBA judgment champion. He's knocked out 15 fighters, and four Hopkins is a standout to prove the first fight was no fluke.

Things don't get any easier for Taylor, though, when he meets his 1 contender Winky Wright in a duo on matchup of punishers and boxers at on Saturday with the undisputed title at stake. AP

GOOD MAKERS are finding it tough to call the bout between Jermain Taylor (left) and Winky Wright.

Mavericks regroup to battle Heat wave

MIAMI—TRY TO PICTURE THIS. LIKE Marvin's, sweating overlords, headphones and sticks and from head to toe in custom fashion, swelling along a tropical breach whistling along to his closer by David Hasselhoff tune.

Swim right, huh?

Well, that's the way Dallas coach Avery Johnson was in Saturday afternoon, full with the Miami Heat on 2-2 in the NBA finals.

"We're on vacation right now," splashed person Johnson said. "We've got a vacation mentality so I'm going to fit that."

He'd better do something but, and Johnson will have to make plans for Sunday's Game 5 without forward Dirk Nowitzki. Nowitzki was suspended on Friday for one game without pay for his flagrant foot on Shaquille O'Neal in Game 4.

During much of their short stay in Sunny and humid Miami, the Mavericks have looked like tourists—lost ones.

One barely six minutes from taking a 3-0 lead, Dallas is now in danger of falling behind in a series it seemed to own. Unable to stop or slow Miami guard Dwyane Wade, the Mavericks have allowed the Heat to pull even in this best-of-seven series, now on hold until Sunday.

MIAMI coach Pat Riley has the Heats spring the lead in the Finals series.

After Game 2, the Mavericks departed Texas brimming with confidence following another easy win in their inaugural visit to the finals. Dallas officials even had the audacity to plan a championship parade, going so far as to announce the route through the downtown city streets.

That party's never put on hold.

As if blowing a 13-point lead in the fourth quarter of Game 3 wasn't bad enough, the Mavericks lost point guard Jason Terry (knee) by 11 entering the fourth, they scored just seven points—the fewest in a quarter in Finals history—as Udonis Haslem (19 points) and Wade (18) powered the Heat to a 98-86 victory.

"We're very disappointed with the way we've played," Johnson said during a lively 30-minute interview session that at times seemed to be aimed directly at his sluggish squad. "We've been distracted."

On Friday, the Mavericks dropped heads, arriving from Miami to Fort Lauderdale a 90-minute trip.

For Dallas to reverse its sudden slide, Nowitzki needs to find his jump shot (1-8 shooting) a 2-for-14 performance. It would be nice if Josh Howard, too, could find his range after a 3-for-9 night.

And now the Mavericks will have to play without Haslem, their versatile sixth man, particularly the NBA for "making unnecessary and excessive contact" with O'Neal, who was ejected according to the Heat by Haslem's head-high forearm shiver.

Losing Stackhouse will be damaging, though not devastating to the Mavericks, whose bench is among the league's deepest. Stackhouse, however, gives Dallas occasionally that Johnson feels has been missing for two games. AP

Bonds hits 718th home run; Williams powers Yankees

SEATTLE—BARRY BONDS HIT HIS 718TH home run Friday night, a second inning line drive off 30-year old Felix Hernandez in the San Francisco Giants' game against the Seattle Mariners.

The lean-like shot landed about a dozen rows into the blue box behind right field, where a scramble for the souvenir ensued.

The San Francisco slugger homered in his previous at bat, in the ninth inning Wednesday at Arizona. He set me Thursday's series finale at the Diamondbacks record.

Bonds is 27 home runs behind Hank Aaron's major league record.

Bonds fouled off a fastball to on Hernandez to open the count at 1-1. He quickly turned on the next pitch, another fastball that Hernandez tried to get on the inside corner. Bonds then dropped his bat at his feet as if it was hot and resumed his backing to his front before beginning his familiar home run trot.

Hernandez became the 424th pitcher Bonds has homered against, an ongoing major league record. It was Bonds' second career home run at Safeco Field. His first came July 12, 2001, off Paul Abbott.

In Washington, Bernie Williams hit a solo home run in the ninth to put the New York Yankees ahead and hold on to beat the Nationals, 7-5.

The Yankees came back from deficits of 3-2 and 5-3, tying the game with two runs in the eighth, and adding two more in the ninth off Nationals closer Chad Cordero (2-2). Williams hit the first pitch from Cordero for his sixth homer of the season, and Johnny Damon later added a sacrifice fly for the final margin. AP

BONDS: Still at it.

Tiger's major letdown

Woods misses US Open cut; Stricker grabs lead

MAMARONECK, NEW YORK—THE LONGEST LAYOFF in Tiger Woods' career ended with his shortest week at a major.

Woods kept thinking he was one putt or one shot away from turning it around in the US Open on Friday until there was nothing left to do but say hi for another hip surgery, sign for another 70, and head home.

At 12 over par, he missed the cut in a major for the first time in 38 years as a professional.

"It's not something you want to have happened," Woods said. "Unfortunately, I missed the cut."

Perhaps it was the rust from not having played since the final round of the Masters in April. Woods has ruled out chemical by-surrender of his kidney fluid, who died on May 3 of cancer. Someone even suggested that he would have been better off playing two weeks ago in the Memorial as a tuneup instead of making his return at the toughest test in golf.

Woods shook his head each time.

"When you don't exercise, you're not going to be happy either way," Woods said. "I don't care if you had what transpired in my life of recent or not. Your execution is never going to feel very good."

Woods might have known he was in trouble midway through his first round, when a shot which appeared to be headed just left of the flag on the 16th hole slipped the top of a tree. It caromed through the branches and landed on a cart path, then caromed 20 yards to the left and landed against a chain-link fence in a bunker on the 17th hole.

Ian Coore at Winged Foot, which isn't being used this week.

He dropped into ankle-deep mud in the trap, had no option but to pitch into the bunker short of the flag and made double bogey.

The other message came late in his round.

Woods was playing his best golf from the worst line to salvage par, and he was at 10 over par when he stepped onto the ninth green to size up a 60-foot putt. He looked at the scoreboard behind the green to see Steve Stricker had finished his round with a birdie on the final hole for a 65 and a 36-hole score of 1 under 139.

The US Open has a rule that anyone within 10 shots of the lead makes the cut.

The gallery groaned when the score was posted, knowing that Woods was 11 shots out of the lead. Instead of making up ground, he were backward. How came a bogey from the rough on No. 8, and then a sloppy bogey on the ninth, his final hole.

Stricker fashioned one of the few solid rounds yielded by the 6,204-yard, par-70 Winged Foot West course, posting a two-under 68 for a two-under total of 139 and a one-shot lead over Scotland's Colin Montgomerie.

Montgomerie's was the quintessential US Open round, with just one bogey and 17 hard-won pars.

"This was a grinding round today and I was glad to hold on," Montgomerie said.

Australian Geoff Ogilvy and US Open newcomer Kenneth Ferrie of England both posted even-par 70s to share third at one-over 141.

Jim Furyk the 2003 US Open winners was the only former champion in the top 10. He carded a 72 for 142, sharing fifth place with Padraig Harrington, who shot a 69.

Phil Mickelson, who lifted the last two major titles at the 2005 PGA Championship and the Masters in April, kept himself in the hunt with a three-over 73 for 143 and a share of seventh place, tied with Lhenroan Cesarse 360 Israeli 172, Jason Dufner (71) and Aaron Oberholser, who fired a two-under 68. AP, AFP

TIGER Woods heads back home after missing his first Major cut.

STEVE Stricker blasts out of a sand trap on the 8th hole.

The Iceman cometh back?

MAMARONECK, NEW YORK—It's been five years since David Duval won. But the Bunt Jag at the 2000 Open, it's been seven since he was the best player in the world.

So much has changed in that time. He nearly earned the same on Friday.

Duval made four birdies in the second round of the US Open to post 5th best round in a major since 2001. He not only made the cut in a major for the first time in four years, but played himself into contention as well.

Duval's 68 was tied for the lowest score of the second round—on a day so brutal that only five broke par at Winged Foot.

Duval, who gained Woods for the No. 1 ranking after his win at The Players Championship back in 1999, heads into the weekend at 3 over in a tie for 14th place, six strokes behind Steve Stricker.

"I guess that's the difference between you and me," he said when asked about finally succeeding. "I don't think that way. I'm not thinking along those lines, whether I've done it previously or not."

Indeed, those who pay attention only to his scores, not his outing, certainly would have been surprised by this surge. Duval, however, has been talking about improving his play for a while.

Since the golf world was last paying attention, Duval hired and fired four swing coaches before reuniting last year with university coach Peggy Rhebergen. He's starting to feel more comfortable, he says, with the injuries—back, wrist, both shoulders—that took him before.

Remember the Iceman? The guy with the black shirt and the sunglasses shades who wouldn't let anyone in? Actual looks the same, but he's kinder and gentler now, easier to share his something that became apparent as he made his way around Winged Foot. AP

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Solemn wedding for Juday & Ryan

A 'commercialized' event is out of the question, they say

By Reyan Sao Diego Jr.

THESE PAST FEW WEEKS, actress Judy Ann "Juday" Santos has had to fend off all sorts of rumors concerning her forthcoming nuptials with TV host Ryan Agoncillo.

Gossip no. 1: She commissioned couturier Paul Cabral to design her wedding gown.

Gossip no. 2: Her mom Carol looks for venues to reprimand that she and Ryan were contemplating a 2007 altar date.

Adding fuel to the fire, Juday and Ryan are teaming up on the big screen for the first time, in Jose Javier Reyes' "Kasal, Kasali, Kasalo," Star Cinema's entry in this December's Metro Manila Film Festival.

Is the movie a preview of things to come? Juday laughed heartily when Inquirer Entertainment posed the question.

"We're going to continue! Should people expect something? It's just remembered," she said on the set of "Kasal," which had its first shooting day on Wednesday.

Tall order

Confronted with the scuttlebutt, Juday openly shrugged: "I haven't seen Paul Cabral [since] December. I was very embarrassed that his name got dragged into this. He's a very busy person and he doesn't have time for petty intrigues like this. Maybe I should just be thankful that a lot of people are planning our wedding for us this early. It means we don't have to worry about anything."

Unlike most celebrity brides, Juday is opting a "simple, intimate wedding."

She acknowledged that this sounds like a tall order, considering her superstar status.

She insisted: "I'm not being selfish and [we don't just] want to deprive our fans of the chance to watch our wedding. I just honestly want it to be solemn."

What about a TV special?

"I don't know," she quipped. "As of now, we're not thinking about it. If you ask us, we want it to be private. We don't want it to look like one of the network's shows. Our wish is that it wouldn't be commercialized."

Ryan, for his part, said that they're playing it cool. Also from the set of "Kasal," Ryan told Inquirer, "We laugh about it. We take things in stride. There's no tension. We don't want to rush things just because people say we look good together."

Real, fun

He described their relationship as "young and real." He said, "We want to take it one step at a time. We still have a lot of things to share and discover."

Talk about fun: Judes, in disguise and under the protagonism of Ryan, who is hosting "Philippine Idol," auditioned for the ABC 5 talent search before judges Pilita Corrales, Ryan Cayabyab and Francis Magalona.

According to a witness: "Wearing her usual shades, Juday playfully performed Francis' rap anthem 'Mga Kaibigan.'"

It was French-kiss Ryan caught on.

Talk about eating: Juday whips up mouth-watering Grilled Chicken Lemon Sloppy in the set of Ria ARI-CHO soap opera "Wating Walang Ningning" starring Ryan's reverend.

"I love cooking for him," Juday enthused.

Is this a preparation for impending domesticity?

Juday giggled. She insisted that they're too preoccupied with these for work to obsess about nuptial matters.

Apart from "Kasal," ARI-CHO is cooking up a new TV show for the pair. A Valentine movie is also in the works.

"We don't know yet whether the new show will be a soap or a sitcom," Juday said. "Details are still being ironed out."

Just like the soup in the stew?

World's No. 1 star: Tom Cruise

But highest paid last year was Steven Spielberg

LOS ANGELES – DENVER BRONCO the couch-jumping and the in-person dissolution, Tom Cruise is the world's No. 1 star, according to Forbes' annual "Celebrity 100 Power List," which ranks famous folks based on earnings and buzz.

The four-time scientific ranking marks the highest point ever from the worlds of television, film, music, and sports, said editor Jon Fine mon... with a hit year's earnings by hefting a particularly strong showing by British stars.

"It's what kind of currency the star's name have," Dahlstrom said. "It's increasingly important how they are perceived both in industry circles and mainstream culture. And that represents who has cachet in both arenas."

Cruise is the only celebrity to top the list twice, she said. He was also No. 1 in 2005.

"He's one of the few guaranteed bankable stars," Dahlstrom said. "Scores in Hollywood can negotiate the kind of salary he gets."

With an estimated income of $67 million last year, Cruise was not the top money-earner, but his couch-hopping antics on "Oprah," his diminutive romantic show Brooke Shields' postpartum depression, and whirlwind romance with Katie Holmes made him one of the most talked about stars of the year. He ranked 13th on last year's list.

British score

The British scored high, with the Rolling Stones coming in second, "Harry Potter" author J.K. Rowling in 19th place, and Paul McCartney and Elton John at 54th and 86th respectively.

"American Idol" big shot Simon Cowell joining the list as No. 29, David Beckham fell from 26th to 42nd, and Kate Moss checked out at 73rd.

Ireland's U2 came in at No. 4.

Oprah No. 3

Perennial Forbes list favorite, talk show host Oprah Winfrey, who claimed the No. 1 spot last year, dropped to No. 3 in the latest rankings. The $225 million she pulled in, according to Forbes, should ease the pain.

Winfrey's windfall paled next to Steven Spielberg's take of $332 million. The director-producer was the year's highest-paid celebrity. He made ninth on Forbes' list.

Satellite radio star and self-proclaimed "king of all media," Howard Stern, was the second highest-paid celebrity, with $302 million. He placed seventh on the list, up 28 spots from last year.

Tiger Woods, who pulled in $90 million in earnings, ranked 86th, beating fellow golfer Phil Mickelson, who placed 88th.

Fluctuation

Rapper 50 Cent saves made Forbes' list before but this year he captured eighth place thanks to his top-selling ringtones, G-Unit clothing line and reported sales of more than $20 million. His other rapper made the list.

"There's a lot of fluctuation," Goldman said. "It has to do with what (celebrities) are doing and how much they're getting paid for it."

The cast of "The Sopranos," which earned a total of $12 million for their seventh season, placed ninth. Author Dan Brown, whose mega-bestseller "The Da Vinci Code" sold a staggering 44 million copies and inspired the year's most anticipated and controversial film, rounded out the top 10.

Curious tie

Brad Pitt, who ranked 13th last year, dropped to 20th place, despite his high-profile relationship and resulting offspring with longtime Jolie.

Jolie, not surprisingly, made the list, too, tying for 35th place—with Pitt's ex, Jennifer Aniston.

Mel Gibson, who topped the list in 2004 and ranked third last year, didn't make it this time. Neither did Madonna, who ranked eighth last year.

Lance Armstrong, Phil Mickelson, Julia Roberts and Lindsay Lohan all placed prominently last year but dropped off the latest list.

New to the "Celebrity 100" pop psychologist Phil McGraw of TV and radio personality Ryan Seacrest (18th).

Nothing in Hollywood is complete without Paris Hilton and Nicole Richie. Hilton was No. 56 and Richie No. 95.

—Sandy Cohen, AP

INQUIRER EXCLUSIVE

More Filipinos are now watching the news, execs say

CHARIE Villa Lucio Cruz-Valdez and Maria Ressa

Kapamilya revamps late-night newscast

By Bayani San Diego Jr.

AS PART of ABS-CBN's ongoing program revamp, its late-night newscast is set to undergo a major overhaul.

The "repackaging" or "re-grabbing," expected by Inquirer Entertainment on May 26, finally starts on July 3.

For a start, the late-night news show "Bandila" has been retitled "Bandila."

Apart from the title change, the program will be reformatted.

Original "Bandila" anchor Ces Drilon will be joined by fellow senior correspondents Henry Omaga-Diaz, "Weekend Patrol" anchor, and Korina Sanchez, former "TV Patrol" anchor.

"This marks Korina's return to nightly news after nearly two years," said Maria Ressa, senior vice president and head of News and Current Affairs.

Lucha Cruz-Valdez, head of Current Affairs, said the title, which translates to "flag," alludes to the term "banner story" or top news of the day.

"Bandila" also refers to the tri-color—literally flown, explained: "Three colors, three stars, three stadium."

Charie Villa, head of Newsgathering, said Drilon, Diaz and Sanchez were "three of the network's most experienced reporters-anchors."

Objective

Ressa said the goal for "Bandila" was to make it "agenda-setting."

"We first tried it on TV Patrol World," with Ted Failon, Julius Babao and Karen Davila," Villa recalled.

The new program will run for 30 minutes "it will be followed by a Current Affairs show," said Valdez. "That's an hour and a half of NEWS every night."

While the newscasts deliver information," Ressa said, "the Current Affairs programs provide analysis. We are backing worldwide trends because more Filipinos are watching the news now. There are a number of factors behind this: the volatility and uncertainty in political/economic life, weakness of institutions, the OFW phenomenon. Crime stories are a perennial favorite of the people and under this situation, Filipinos want to know more about world events because nearly eight million of our relatives and friends are working abroad."

The relicensing of the late-night newscast is only the tip of the iceberg, hinted Manolo E. Quirino, vice president for Government, Corporate Affairs and PR. "There will be bigger changes in the next few weeks."

Let's go ... to the movies

By Paul Dosa

LIZ (reportedly) soon-to-be ward rectory gig show "Graham," 606-CBS's new Saturday afternoon youth comedy "Let's Go" portrays its network's continuing struggle in creating innovative comedy programs.

"Let's Go" is a situational comedy with two objectives: provide a bunch of teen star wannabes a venue to grow and hone their ensemble talents; and shoot television how colorful and hilarious life is in a co-ed college dorm.

Barely passing

In its sophomore episode two fair weeks ago, "Let's Go" burdened listeners failing heroically and barely passing. The storylines and jokes were run-of-the-mill. A nerdy protagonist wearing a pair of big ugly eyeglasses is unceremoniously ruined into a bar-hopping party girl when she removes her specs and it has a new shampoo. Slightly more original is a straight guy's attempts to retrieve a bracelet given to him by a gay admirer. And although the show tries to capture the tone of teen flicks like "Mean Girls" and "Sixteen Candles," no lines are particularly memorable or quotable. By being a pale comparison to youth movies like these, "Let's Go" might just prompt young people everywhere to say, "Let's go ... to The Movies!"

The show's creators, however, should be commended for at least trying to innovate one aspect of the sitcom format. Instead of the repetitive, tiresome giggles we've heard for decades on local sitcom laugh tracks, "Let's Go" has recorded variations on those guffaws. Those include a hefty "Whoa!" from an obscure studio audience when something shocking or surprising happens, and a boisterous "Yeaay!" when something substantially romantic.

But when the causes that prompt those reactions aren't that funny shocking, or substantial to begin with, the studio recording tentacles instead of enhances. The "Whoa!" was employed whenever a trio of dancers saw the guy (hottie) characters in a tight embrace with another guy. It was funny —the first time.

The "Yeaay" on the other hand, was heard when a female introduced herself in her nasty crush. You wonder, though, if the sound effects are there to enhance an already funny moment, or to simply fill awkward face-saving. If it weren't for the "Yeaay," we may not have even realized that a character had special feelings for another. Except the people who work on the soundtrack confident enough with the performances of their cast? Do they have to execute Chui (the audience hamster that this girl is arrowed to this boy?

The show's subgenic stars include newbies Cathy Camargo, Rudjie Morris, Valerie Garcia, Scott Bascon, Charise Pineda, Timmy Boy Sia, Manta, Edu Emmy Cabilan and Janelle Quintana. There are also more recognizable actors like Mikel Campos and Chantiley Mendoza (who plays a student in the show. Problem is, these guys and gals are saddled playing stereotypes and clichéd characters who aren't any more substantial than the one you read about in sitcom comics.

Shape up

If they are to be hosted in this generation's new batch of teen stars, they should be given more challenging story lines to act out, especially since there's so much competition out there from the veterans and newcomers up of all those reality talent searches. If "Let's Go" doesn't become funnier as the series airs, it's likely that these kids will be around very temporary.

Review

$62.8-M weekend for 'Cars'

LOS ANGELES— THE ANIMATED COMEDY "Cars" raced to first place at last weekend's box office with a $62.8 million debut, outrunning the Disney-Pixar cartoon brand's undefeated record with a seventh straight hit.

It was the third best opening in the Disney-Pixar cartoon series, just ahead of "Monsters, Inc." but behind "The Incredibles" and "Finding Nemo," which both debuted at about $70 million.

Still, it was the first time since the partnership began with 1995's "Toy Story" that a Disney-Pixar film did not grow more than its predecessor over opening weekend.

"It took at $62 million as being an overwhelmingly good proposition," said Chuck Viane, Disney's head of distribution. "To see the baseball analogy, a home run is a home run. This is a home run."

'Cruise' on No. 4

"Cars" movie that uses the voices of Owen Wilson and Paul Newman in a story of a fenderbender car that gets a lesson on the value of slowing down when he's sidetracked in a sleepy burgh.

The weekend's other new wide release, 20th Century Fox's horror remake "The Omen," took in $ 11 million domestically. The supernatural tale ranked No. 5 with $21.35 million, lifting its three-week total to $101.7 million.

Close behind: "Ultimo" in Sony's "The Da Vinci Code."

Estimated ticket sales at UK and Canadian theaters, according to Exhibitor Relations, officials tracked:

1) "Cars," $62.8M; 2) "The Break-Up," $20.1M; 3) "X-Men: The Last Stand," $11.35M; 4) "The Omen," $10.45M; 5) "Over the Hedge," $10.39M; 6) "The Da Vinci Code," $10.2M; 7) "A Prairie Home Companion," $4.1M; 8) "Mission: Impossible III," $3M; 9) "Pil," $2M; 10) "Poseidon," $1.8M.

—AP

Kapuso, 56 na tayo!

Muli po kaming nagpapasalamat sa inyo, mga Kapuso.
Bukod po sa patuloy na pag-akyat ng ating ratings,
nakatatataba rin po ng puso na sa inyo mismo manggaling na...

mas tinatangkilik ninyo ang inyong Kapuso.

	GMA	ABS-CBN
Mas matagal ang oras ng aming pamamood dito	75	56
Pinanonood at pinag-uusapan ng mga kabiganKaklase	81	67

Dahil GMA ang **mas malikhain...**

	GMA	ABS-CBN
Orihinal	82	63

ang naghahatid ng **mas natatanging mga programa...**

	GMA	ABS-CBN
May maggagandang line-up ng mga programa	82	64
Mas nakaaaliw at natural ang mga sitcoms/comedy shows	79	60
Mas pinapanood namin ang mga variety shows dito	77	58
Kawili-wili at nagbibigay impormasyon ang mga talkshows	77	63
Mas higit naming sinusubaybayan ang mga telenovela	73	55

ang inyong **mas pinagkakatiwalaan** sa napapanahong balita...

	GMA	ABS-CBN
Pinakamahusay sa paghahatid ng napapanahong balita	83	68

ang inyong pinaniniwalaang **mas nagbibigay ng pangalan sa artista...**

	GMA	ABS-CBN
Tagapagpasikat ng mga bagong artista	83	72

At higit sa lahat...
ang hinahangad inyong **mas malalapitan.**

	GMA	ABS-CBN
Istasyon na may malasakit	86	76

Ang inyong patuloy na pagtangkilik at pagkilala ang nagsisilbing inspirasyon sa amin upang magsikap na laging manatiling number 1 sa inyong mga puso.

GMA

Kapuso ng bawat Pilipino

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ENTERTAINMENT

FRANCIS Magalona, Pilita Corrales and Ryan Cayabyab during the first round of auditions

'Idol' producers made RP their last stop, says Pilita

Regional auditions picks 50 more contestants

By Marinel R. Cruz

PILITA CORRALES says the producers of "Pop Idol" made the Philippines their "last stop" because "they knew they were going to have a difficult time here."

Pilita is one of the judges of the country's version of the reality talent search that originated in England in 2001 (and whose most popular version is the wildly popular "American Idol"). The two other judges are master composer Ryan Cayabyab and singer-TV host Francis Magalona.

"That's what the judges are experiencing now. It's really tough to say no to so many talented people," Pilita told Inquirer Entertainment. "In 'Philippine Idol,' we're not looking for just any singer...there are other contests for that. What we're looking for is a singer with a plus and plus."

The first phase of the auditions that began on June 6 at the PICC in Pasay City yielded 240 contestants for Luzon.

Screenings

Another 25 are expected to be picked from the Mindanao auditions on June 23 at the Waterfront Insular Hotel in Davao City. Still another 25 will come from the Visayas region via the auditions in Cebu City on July 1.

ABC 5 acquired the "Idol" franchise from the UK-based Fremantle Media. The "Idol" franchise is now in 21 countries.

"Fremantle has had [other] countries, Singaporean and Malaysian Idol shows, but their

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ABC 5: We want to learn from the best

By Marinel R. Cruz

"WE DO NOT THINK OF OURselves as big that it gets in the way of learning from the best in the world, especially a phenomenon like 'Idol.'"

ABC 5 Creative and Talent Management Production head Wenchikan was reacting to a statement by Wilma Galvante, GMA 7 senior vice president for Entertainment TV, that came out in Inquirer Entertainment last week.

Galvante said GMA 7 had opted for homegrown talent search shows at a time when foreign franchises were hardling for local viewership. She said the network didn't need to get other people's ideas.

On June 16, however, Inquirer.net ABC 5's assertion to Inquirer via e-mail. "There are various ways of reading facts [GMA 7's] statement," he said. "Of course it is always good to believe in Filipino creativity and originality. ABC 5, [which has produced shows like 'Pinoy Dream Academy' and 'Pinoy Dancing'], [knows] this well. The point of franchising a show like 'Idol' is that we get to understand how other countries do [it]—what works, what doesn't."

According to Enkanto, GMA 7's homegrown shows made their own rules, unlike foreign franchise that came with a production "bible" that local producers were required to follow.

"[In] ABC's relationship with Fremantle Media, there is mutual respect and trust," Enkanto explained. "When ABC teamed up [with its media partners] and the idea of conducting last week screenings came up, Fremantle gave us their blessing, though it wasn't in their [manual]."

He added: "This is how the entertainment industry grows and improves: open to self- inspiration for new programs can come from various sources."

In another statement, ABC 5 said: "ABS-CBN seems a bit worried with the success of 'Idol,' [so it] cooked up a new show" to go against it.

The statement said ABS-CBN's move to air "Pinoy Dream Academy," which has the same format as "Idol," to the same time slot is a sign of its "propensity to imitate successful shows in other stations."

The statement quoted Fremantle Media Superviser Producer Sheldon Bailey as saying: "Dream Academy" is just 'Big Brother' with music. It started off as 'Star Academy' but it got pulled out. [which, of course, is not true]. "Idol" is a stronger format. In fact, when you look at 'Star Academy's' original show, the one in Dutch, it is very different from what they are now because it actually has [also] to many elements from 'Idol.'"

"Philippine Idol' is not the only show that ABS-CBN is getting to rip," the statement said. "The network has launched a copycat show of ABC's 'Thad Ho Dance'."

ABS-CBN recently launched "U Can Dance," a dance show hosted by Iya Villania and Derek Ramsay.

IMITALWA

BAILEY

'Idol' producers made RP their last stop, says Pilita

From page A1 »

expectations with the show here is really high. They know how much talent we have here," explained Pilita.

The most difficult part of being a judge, she said, was being firm before applicants who beg, cry and drop to their knees when rejected.

"If we could only say yes to everybody," she stated. "But the applicants are told, 'You have only one chance [to sing]'. Make sure it's the right song." I know it's nerve-wracking for them. But secretly, after hearing the first four or five lines of the song, we already know whether the applicant will make the grade or not."

According to ABC-5 Creative and Entertainment Production head Perci Intalan, the three judges will eventually whittle down to 100 the number of contestants. Of these only 24—12 girls and 12 boys—will then be chosen as semi-finalists during the theater elimination at the CCP Main Theater in August.

Registration desk

Intalan said a special registration desk will be put up in SM Stores to fast-track contestants. He added that his team is currently discussing with Big Boss Entertainment, a Hollywood production company based in Cebu, the possible use of a portion of the 8,200-sq. m. facility for the auditions there.

"I guess it's also because this is the search for the first Philippine Idol' that so many want to join," Pilita said. "Even professional singers and recording artists have turned up, they're not embarrassed. So we won't be surprised if we don't even have a final date for the start of the show."

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From 'Cleopatra' to 'Mr. and Mrs. Smith'

PHIL of the Future

For dads and kids . . .

. . .

At "The Fairly Life of Zack and Cody" at 5 p.m., Zack and Cody are drafted to rescue their father is going to be working while he's based to perform in Boston. But when Zack decides his mother is having too much on him, he does something drastic.

'Puppy Days'

Also on Playhouse Disney Channel this whole month is "Clifford's Puppy Days," at 9:30 a.m.

AFTER OUR RECENT PIECE ON Jennifer Aniston, here are additional inputs on the beautiful Brad Angelina imbroglio. It can be compared to a similar scandal (pictured scandal) in the '50s, when the marriage of Elizabeth Taylor and Eddie Fisher was rocked and then sundered after Taylor fell head over heels in love with Michael Burton as they were filming "Cleopatra."

Backtracked 40 years, and pretty much the same thing happened on the set of "Mr. and Mrs. Smith," when Brad Pitt flipped over co-star Angelina Jolie, and then left his wife, Jennifer, in the lurch.

So, Angelina is the new Liz Taylor? Well, she's certainly lovely and idiosyncratic enough to fit the bill. And Brad is every bit as handsome, if not as all-American guy.

But, Jennifer as the new Eddie Fisher? There's really a weird disconnect there! But that's the way it is with stories of doomed, intertangled—they're identical, only up in a penthouse.

What will happen to the protagonists in today's "triangular" real-life drama has devised? Brad and Angelina are now parents of their lovely child; Jennifer is being linked to her "break-up" co-star, Vince Vaughn—but, still doing many the same days and?

If past experience serves, not likely. Liz and Richard got married, divorced, got married again, split up once more, and Liz wore on to marry other men before she got fed up with saying "I do" for the 6th time!

So Brangelina, enjoy it while it lasts, but forever—is another day.

Short film finalists

With one of 100 entries were recently selected as finalists in the 2006 Cinemalaya festival's short film competition. The winner will be announced on July 23 and will receive a grant of P500,000.

The 30 finalists are "Ten-gen at Wanted" by Dennis Evangelista and M. Tanangcia, "No Passport Needed" by Arianne Lim, "10:10 ng Gabi" by Jaggie Gaddi, "Kasuwe" by Jose Emmanuel Teyhi, "Lihulo" by Ian dela Rosa, "Ninyuan" by Rommel Tacbobora, "Walang Wikain" by Robert Sta, "Nasa" by Jeah Lagunsa, "Dasang" by Arana Rabella Matubia, and "Sa Silaw" by Bristol Balan.

Cinemalaya 2006 is set from July 17 to 23 at the CCP.

Tit for tat

NOW that "The Da Vinci Code" has had its say on the big screen, "Secrets of the Code" offers a speedy rebuttal starting June 25. In addition, many TV documentaries taking a common stand in the film have joined the fray as has the book, "The Da Vinci Hoax," which exposes the movie's errors.

Another interesting development related to "The Da Vinci Code": Hits: It was given a "Da General Patronage" rating in China, but it has since been pulled off the screen

VIEWFINDER

Amateur C. Turns

The Nun'

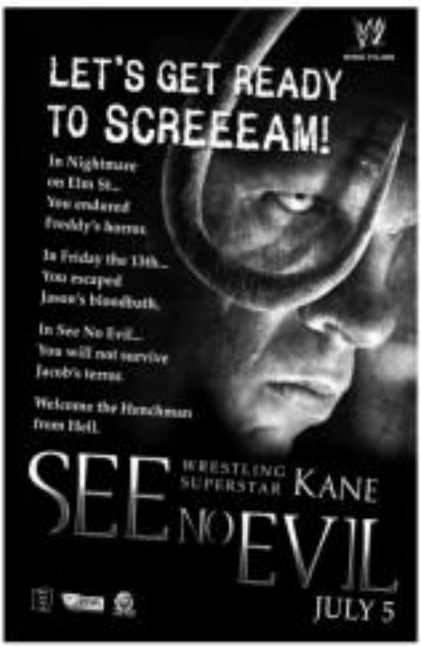
SEVENTEEN years ago, an 11-year-old girls are terrorized by a hamster cult in a boarding school. One day, the nun discovers that one of the girls is pregnant. Scandalized, she "purifies" the girl by torturing

BRAD Pitt and Angelina Jolie

her. The school is suddenly closed a few weeks later.

Ten-fourteen 17 years, and each of the girls has rebuilt her life. But, one night, a former schoolmate is brutally murdered. This is followed by another horrific death.

The surviving women realize that the murders may be linked—and that one of them may be next. This forces them to reconcile after all these years and finally confront—"The Nun."



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SMART

For dads and kids on Disney Channel

KID FIT

(IT'S DAD'S TIME TO SHINE TO-day, Father's Day. Playhouse Disney Channel makes sure fathers and kids have a great time together with these shows:

...

"Papa's Circus" runs the two-part "A Circus Town Wedding," at 11 a.m. Circus Town is all set for Mrs. Ringmaster's wedding to Mr. Mumbles. But her daughter Maya is not sure she can step as Daddy's little girl when her step-mom moves the scene.

...

"Stanley" at 11:30 a.m. follows the little boy who learns a lot from interacting with animals. With the help of hand-sunglasses and basins, he solves little problems that children face up-close-and-c.

...

"Bella Bella Bike" at 1:30 p.m. finds Ollie's mother teaching dad Percy Polo handle-bing-into a Bella Bella Panda dance with Wan.

...

"Clifford's Puppy Days" teaches kids the values of self-acceptance, friendship and a sense of community. The show revolves around Clifford's silent and simple life, basics like sharing, working together and being a good friend.

...

On Disney Channel Asia, Sunday with dad begins at 2 p.m. as "Dora the Explorer," where Louis sees girls, Cranberry and a 11-bot doll or win a race. Find out if Louis wins or learns a major lesson in life.

...

"Uncle Webster" at 2:30 p.m. shows Lizzie's father reluctantly allowing her to babysit Blue, even if he believes she's still too young.

FOR DADS A3

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NOURISH HER WITH NESLAC

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THE RIGHT AMOUNT AND BALANCE OF NOURISHMENT

THE RIGHT MIX OF TASTE

YOU AND ME, AND NESLAC. JUST RIGHT.

ENTERTAINMENT

'Awit' 2006 belonged to Bamboo

The band clinched five awards, including Album of the Year

BAMBOO: "Light, Peace, Love... Hallelujah!"

By Nini Valera

THIS YEAR'S AWIT AWARDS belonged to Bamboo. The band carried away five of the major awards—Ballad of the Year for "Much Has Been Said," Best Performance by a Group Recording Artist for "Hallelujah," Album of the Year for "Light, Peace, Love," Song of the Year for "Hallelujah," and Best Rock Song, also for "Hallelujah."

The Awit Awards are given out by the Philippine Association of the Record Industry.

Bamboo beat "Pandesal at Dilaw" for the AL Inan of the Year honors. Pandesal, the quirky cross-dressing band was also nominated for Best Novelty Song for "Mang Jose," which likewise got them in the running for Best Music Video and Best-Selling Album of the Year, for "Inalala sa Pandesal."

Pandesal did not win any of the awards.

Gary's ninth

Gary Valenciano romped off with his ninth Best Performance by a Male Recording Artist award at the 10th Awit Awards on Thursday at the Cuneta Filipinas Amphitheater in Pembapac.

Gary was nominated in the category for three songs—"Break Me," "Slow Limang," and "Upakling Sinagmay."

His win for "Break Me," a song he wrote for the late record producer Bobi Tan under Universal Records.

Gary told Inquirer Entertainment on Friday that he did not expect to win the award.

"I thought that being nominated for three songs in this category would lessen my chances of winning," he said. "I wasn't expecting to win. I thought, okay it's good if I get it. But when my name was called, I didn't know how to react. I didn't know what to say."

Gary let out a loud "Yes!" when he went to accept the award.

The singer, who has been a fixture in the local pop scene for the last 23 years, beat Joel Madula, last year's runaway winner in the World Championship of Performing Arts held in Burbank, California. Gary also won over Mari-in Sisseya, with whom he dominated the award scene in the '80s.

Joel was nominated for his song "Narrow Bliss" and Marin Sisseya, for "Nanggang Langit."

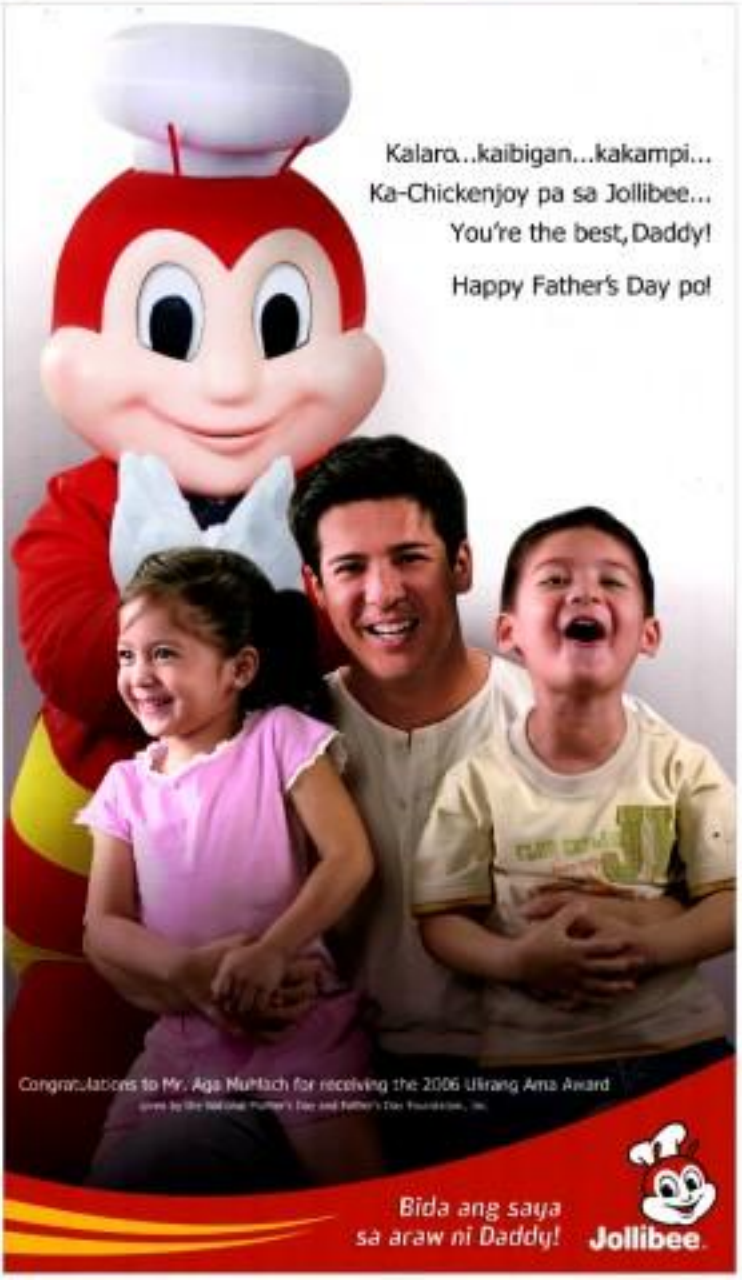
Barbie vs Regine

For Ballad of the Year, Gary won the only nomination, Bamboo's "Much Has Been Said" tied for the win with Rafe's "The Day You Said Goodbye." Rafe had a second nomination in the category for "Bang Wala Ka," and Rivermaya for "You'll Be Safe Here."

Best Performance by a Female Recording

AWIT 2006 | A4

JED Madela



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5 RESERVE
6 LAKE HOUSE
7 X-MEN 3
8 AN AMERICAN HAUNTING
9 CARS
10 THE OMEN

ERMITA

1 THE FAST AND THE FURIOUS
2 KAPAG TUMIBOK ANG PUSO
3 GARFIELD 2
4 LAKE HOUSE
5 CARS
TAKE THE LEAD
6 THE OMEN
X-MEN 3
7 AN AMERICAN HAUNTING

METRO EAST

1 TAKE THE LEAD
THE DA VINCI CODE
2 CARS
3 KAPAG TUMIBOK ANG PUSO
4 THE FAST AND THE FURIOUS 3
5 THE OMEN
X-MEN 3
6 LAKE HOUSE
7 GARFIELD 2
8 AN AMERICAN HAUNTING

NOVALICHES

1 GARFIELD 2
2 THE FAST AND THE FURIOUS
3 THE OMEN / X-MEN 3
4 THE DA VINCI CODE
5 KAPAG TUMIBOK ANG PUSO
6 LAKE HOUSE

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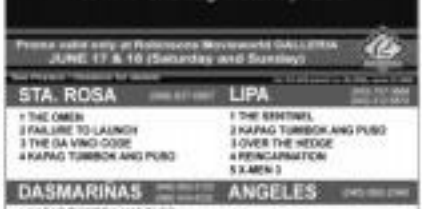
1 MANNY PO
2 KAPAG TUMIBOK ANG PUSO
3 RESERVE
4 RESERVE

PIONEER

1 LAKE HOUSE
2 CARS
3 KAPAG TUMIBOK ANG PUSO
4 AN AMERICAN HAUNTING



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2 KAPAG TUMIBOK ANG PUSO
3 OVER THE HEDGE
4 REINCARNATION
5 X-MEN 3

DASMARINAS

1 KAPAG TUMIBOK ANG PUSO
2 THE DA VINCI CODE
3 THE OMEN
4 FAILURE TO LAUNCH

ANGELES

1 CARS
2 KAPAG TUMIBOK ANG PUSO
3 GARFIELD 2
4 LAKE HOUSE

IMUS

1 THE DA VINCI CODE
2 LAKE HOUSE
3 THE OMEN
4 GARFIELD 2: A TAIL OF TWO KITTIES
5 KAPAG TUMIBOK ANG PUSO
6 CARS

STARMILLS

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2 THE DA VINCI CODE
3 KAPAG TUMIBOK ANG PUSO
4 GARFIELD 2
5 LAKE HOUSE
6 X-MEN 3 / THE OMEN

BACOLOD

1 FAILURE TO LAUNCH
2 CARS
3 KAPAG TUMIBOK ANG PUSO
4 X-MEN 3
5 AQUAMARINE
6 REINCARNATION

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3 KAPAG TUMIBOK ANG PUSO
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6 CHAOS

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Lovi's debut album

Singer and recording artist
FPJ's daughter) launches her
from today on the countries
"SOP" to GMA 7.

Her album, "The Best of M
contains 12 tracks, including
single "I Love You."

The songs were composed
Ahmad, Raymund Ryan, Vin
Abi Marquez, Jessie Dan and
Castillo.

Today

Cassandra: 2006 Untold Tour
City
Lyrics Showcase at RJPX Bar

LOVI

FEEDBACK

Trivia please

Pedro Jaime Pardo Ca
gan-Midsayap

Datar-Ong Province C
Camiling

WOW greetings to t
Philippine Daily Inquir
and to its entertainme
section!

May I request your ki
rise to feature trivia, n
views, and articles abou
the TV shows of the "T
and "60s? I'm particular
interested to the "70s and
operas and the neo-r
did "DMA Superstars
"That's Entertainment
"Vilma" and "The Ilusio
Centro Show," and th
longest running TV com
shows (the... Pedro
This can give readers a
idea about the show
actor/actress and newsp

Bad timing

Perma Lei Reyes Land
cho
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Guadalupe, Makati City

NSSAI Sports is a
again, running six tremb
pleasure.

Last night, I watche
the live coverage of th
World Cup match betwe
Brazil and Togo. Just as
conductor was announ
second minute would last
he doesn't winning gra
Solar Sports abruptly
corrupted the live feed an
inserted commercials.

Why deprive us, viewe
are the chance to witnes
an inspiring moment? W
want to see the celebr
rise, the reward, the fame

Timing, Sir. Wh
Tiong, Solar Solar Spo
staff's got bad timing. Bes
is bad timing.

yed Peas at the Big Dome July 27

Tomorrow

Kumbanwe at Polytechnic University, Immigrant City
Philadelphia and Overtime at Tavern on the Square
Silk and Steel at Mark's Bar Bistro, Greenbelt 5
Jojo A All the Way and Gimme A Break at SJTV Bar
Balboa on a Roll at Bistro Dasso Bar

SHOW TIME

June 20
Jojo A All the Way and Gimme A Break at SJTV Bar
Jollanzo and Stitt at Tavern on the Square
Anetha and the Soaked Out Band at Mark's Bar

June 21
Jojo A All the Way and Gimme A Break at SJTV Bar
DJ at Discovery Suites' Serendipity Lounge
The Dungaree and Denims Band at Tavern on the Square
Wednesday Jazz Festival at Mark's Bar with Richard Mark, Eddie Kimberly and Judith Bound

June 22
Jojo A All the Way and Gimme A Break at SJTV Bar
Acoustic Jive at Mark's Bar
Journey Mixed at Tavern on the Square

June 23
DJ 'n Friends and Moonstruck at SJTV Bar
Jaz Session at Tavern on the Square
Cascades 2006 World Tour in Boracay
SJTV Live Sessions at Cafe Jogo featuring Tess Saldi
Solace at Mo Salvatore

June 24
Whatnot's Wings Tour with Bamboo at Leyte Park, Tacloban
Stereo Republic at Tavern on the Square
The Saxon Show at SJTV Bar

June 25
Cascades 2006 World Tour at Manila Hotel
Silk Santos at Multispace

BLACK Eyed Peas

BNW Series
Lynn Gherman at SJTV Bar
Solace at SM City Clark

June 26
Jojo A All the Way and Gimme A Break at SJTV Bar
Strings of Soul and Shots at Tavern on the Square
Silk and Steel at Mark's Bar Bistro, Greenbelt 5
Dennis Otis at Bistro Dasso Bar

June 27
Jojo A All the Way and Gimme A Break at SJTV Bar
Jollanzo and Stitt at Tavern on the Square
Engelbert Humperdinck at the Araneta Coliseum
Anetha and the Soaked Out Band at Mark's Bar

June 28
Kumbanwe at University of Mindanao
Jojo A All the Way and Gimme A Break at SJTV Bar
DJ at Discovery Suites' Serendipity Lounge
The Dungaree and Denims Band at Tavern on the Square
Wednesday Jazz Festival at Mark's Bar with Richard Mark, Eddie Kimberly and Judith Bound
Cascades 2006 World Tour at the Hard Rock Cafe Makati

June 29
Jojo A All the Way and Gimme A Break at SJTV Bar
Soulfire and HYMP at Tavern on the Square
Acoustic Jive at Mark's Bar

June 30
Cascades World Tour in Davao

OPENS JULY 5

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G1	1 AN AMERICAN VALENTINE	2 CARS	3 THE LAKE HOUSE	4		
G4	1 GARFIELD 2	2 CARS	3			
	4 TAKE THE LEAD	5 THE MIDDLE MAN	6 THE LAKE HOUSE	7 THE OMEN		
GB1	1 THE OMEN	2 THE LAKE HOUSE				
GB3	1 CARS	2 THE LAKE HOUSE				
	3	4	5			
ATC	1 THE LAKE HOUSE	2 CARS				
	3 GARFIELD 2	4 THE OMEN	5 AMERICAN VALENTINE			
ACC	1 THE LAKE HOUSE	2 GARFIELD 2	3	4 BISHOP HILL		
M2	1 THE LAKE HOUSE	2 THE OMEN				
	3 AN AMERICAN VALENTINE	4	5 GARFIELD 2			

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Sunday, June 18, 6pm Glorietta 4 Park

'Awit' 2006 belonged to Bamboo

RIVERMAYA

Viewpage A4-1

Artist were to Jaclyn Almadin, who beat veteran singer Regine Velasquez.

Bamboo won for "Just a Smile," edging out Sitsa, Ella May Saison and Rachelle Ann Go in the category.

Ogie Alcasid hosted the show and did impromptu comic sets, including a rendition of "Hindi ng Sukdey" during breaks in the show, which was taped for television. Ogie joked about being beaten in Best Performance by a Duet by himself.Then for the song "The Closest To Not To You," Bit-man in the morning for his 4-year with Sharon Cuneta.

Silverstarz won the Best Song Written for Movie/TV/Stage Play trophy for "You'll Be Safe Here," theme for the TV series "Spirits." The group won Music Video of the Year for the same song.

Jaclay Tolentino won honor with the Best World/Alternative Music Award for "Mula Sa Lang"; Smith Border took Best R&B honors for "Ikot." Jhoe and JO won Best Rap Song for "Ulit Ba Meaning."

Best Performance by a New Female Recording Artist went to April for "Kay Hati."

OC Abalayan won New Performance by a New Male Recording Artist for "Magkikitaay sa Ya," while Pepsi won Best Performance by a New Group Recording Artist for "Simon Sa?"

Best-Selling Album of the Year went to Nina's "Live?"

Instrumentalist Nonoy Lucas and Noel Sanico won Best Instrumental Performance for "Gusto Kutalas ang Bituon."

Best Jazz Recording went to Jhoe David for "Let Go."

For the first time, the Awit Awards gave out the Dangal ng Bayan Award to Filipino artist, in recognition of local artists who have brought honor to the country by winning in international competitions.

Recipients of the Dangal were Gary V and Martin Nievera, Jed Madela, Sheena Gonzales, Aryanna, Rachelle Ann Go and composer Vehnee Saturno.

MALE

NINA

HONI DAVID

ENTERTAINMENT

Robin Williams: World's funniest dad?

'Every parent gets a moment where he realizes why some animals eat their young'

LOS ANGELES—Last time we talked to Robin Williams, our question on his wife Marsha's Filipino heritage led to some humorous remarks from the seven-time Oscar nominee.

"You marry a Filipina woman and then like you're the Philippines," Robin quipped. Then, on the spot, he coined a term for Marsha Garces Williams' Filipino-Finnish heritage, "She's Finnipino," he added. "She gets down with white fish."

Robin, who has a daughter and two sons, could be the world's funniest father.

He was unstoppable from that moment on. "I hear in my the Philippines weimaraner eats her," he admitted, and, bursting himself with his hands to stress the point, exclaimed "Whenever! They're wonderful."

Addressing me, he added, "You know what I'm saying."

Robin explained how his father-in-law, Jose Fernandez Garces (he pronounced the name in his version of a Filipino accent), left the Philippines and joined the Navy. Earning naturalized a second, not Citizen. Under Cecil B. DeMille Award recipient last year expressed his reverence of and sympathy for Filipino veterans like his father-in-law had to lobby long and hard for benefits and recognition from the US government.

ONLY IN HOLLYWOOD

Robert V. Ng Stanley

Robin volunteered that the best friend of his youngest son, Cody, a Filipino-American. Robin's other offspring, with Marsha is Zelda, an aspiring actress. (In fact a son, Zachary, with his first wife, Valerie Velardi).

Robin capped my first encounter with him by suddenly shouting "Bolisa!" as we passed by pictures. "Bolisa!" I said to him. "Bolisa!" he replied. Long he got to right as he got into a black Expedition in the hotel driveway. "Bolisa!" he exclaimed.

Our most recent press con with Robin is for his new comedy "RV" which is about an overworked father who takes his family on a road trip. The movie's plot reminded us the unrelenting classicism of parenthood, a perfect topic for today father's Day. Robin's first number one hit with a live action film in years. "RV" also stars Cheryl Hines, Josh Hutcherson and Joanna "JoJo" Levesque as his family and Dawn Clemmensen.

Unlike many comedians who tend to be unimpressed in person, Robin is consistently like an Energizer bunny who goes on and on with the funny quips.

So have you ever taken your family on the road in an RV?

No, I have taken them to a Wilson's down the Cubao Expo.

Pen pals and super-speedy mail

By Oliver N. Palonkorn
Contributor

TWO LOVERS LIVING TWO YEARS APART make a miraculous connection in "The Lake House," a fantasy-romantic drama starring Sandra Bullock and Keanu Reeves. She'd better looking for any logic behind the time-zero communication, as their "bridge" is a seemingly magical mailbox, which gets their letters two years each other's hands in a snap. They both live in the same lakeside home—an architectural wonder with mirror views—in different time periods.

Simple tale

Throw away your alternate reality theories. It's not that kind of movie, nor is it like the TV series "Early Edition," although "The Lake House" shares some reality-smoking kinship, however remote, with those cues. It doesn't strain itself by going into the details and repercussions presented by time-traveling. The focus is the two pen pals, period.

It's a simple tale about the gradually growing relationship between an unhappy doctor, Kate (Bullock), who lives in 2006, and a positive architect, Alex (Reeves), who lives in 2004. Their lives collide without much

Review

recognition before this impossible interaction, and the irony of the situation not lost on them.

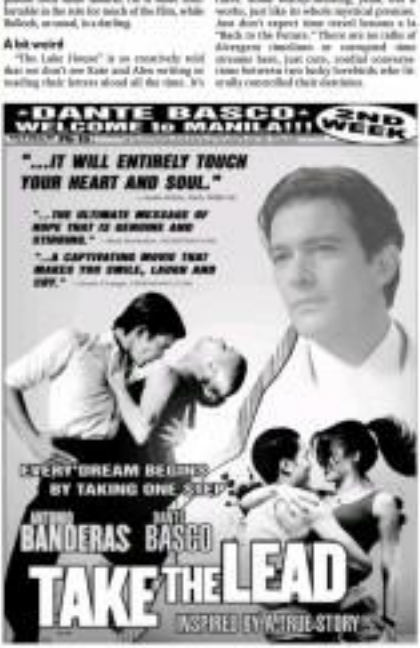
Things get a little choosy sometimes, when reveals long-shot elements—objects sent by Alex to places other than the lake house—make it into Kate's home. They look like awfully convenient coincidences. These two people, it seems, are just too romantically theorized, that with such a likable on-screen pairing as Bullock and Reeves, it's not that big an issue. Forever stiff-jaw and

SANDRA Bullock and Keanu Reeves in "The Lake House"

deliver zeals in the film can almost make one expect him to make speak, like, "Dude, I design, like, houses and stuff. Insert!" But thankfully that doesn't happen and his composure feels more natural. He is more watchable in the role for much of the film, while Bullock, as usual, is a darling.

A bit weird

"The Lake House" is an enjoyably wild flick we don't see Kate and Alex writing or reading their letters aloud all the time. It's a bit weird to see them talking simultaneously in some parts, but because of cleverly superimposed images and bathroom, the pair gets to relate more through their gestures. Some reality-twisting, yeah, but it works, just like its whole mystical premises. Alex don't expect time travel lessons a la "Back to the Future." There are no talks of divergent timelines or uncrossed times-in-time, just cute, soulful conversations between two lucky lovebirds who literally controlled their destinies.



Their best shot

A rueful Movies Qu
rage that Kill apart sho
it one best shot."

Gee, bygones forgiv
her last post in Hong
swear-bon was coincide
won the movies.

Unimpeachable sou

It's confirmed.

Robin Padilla has sign
a movie with Regine Vel
with Angel Locsin.

One assures it very
"very"—miracle of Holly

More network-hopp

There are other ABS-C
be jumping over to GMA

Again Sam Ambo, cu
and Bayani Agbayani ha
is packing up.

Mega's new movies

Although Megastar S
ready committed to two
else is also meeting with
at her next feature film
good this decision?

Speaking of which,
movie is a light romanc

OLIVIA de Havilland

Tribute not gone with the wind

MALIBU, CALIFORNIA—Ol
de Havilland, the last surv
star of the 1939 classic "G
with the Wind" and two-
winner of the Oscar as Bes
ress, received a rare tribute
the Academy of Motion Pic
ters and Sciences on Thursd

"He told I'm only the fi
person to get such a tribute,"
said. It featured film clips
Havilland's long career, wa
panied by her own com
banters.

Prior to the ceremony, De
Haad sat for an interview in
daughter Giselle's out-o
Malibu garden. Dressed ca
only her snow-white hair
hint of her age.

"I'll be 90 on July 1," sh
reasoned. "I can't wait! Bes
victory!"

Family matters

De Havilland hasn't acte
almost 20 years, her last pr
screen having been in the
movies—as the Russian em
in "Anastasia," as Aunt Bete
"The Woman I Love," the m
the Duke of Windsor and W
Simpson, and as the Qu
Mother in "Charlie and I Hav

For 10 years at the end o
century, the star unable to
because of family matters.
son, Benjamin Goodrich, c
armed with Rudolph's dece
17, died in 1991 at 42.

Her second husband, P
Galante, editor of the magaz
Paris Match, left ill with lung
em. Even though they had
voiced in 1979, Olivia ha
with his care. He died in 199

She helped Giselle, her da
ters relate to Columbine and
bouts of depression.

When Giselle called in
with news of her husba
death, her mother asked,
you want me there?' Giselle
yes, and De Havilland left
and was in Malibu the next
the hand left.

Clash of the titans

MARIAN Quinten

SHARON Cuneta

More than meets the eye

The young star's reported misunderstanding with her folks doesn't only stem from her budding romance with a man her parents consider toxic.

The real reason is the fact that the girl wants to control her career and, ergo, her life.

Million-Dollar Baby?

From the gay movie "Money No," director Joel Lamangan prompted him "to explore the limit" —the limit of how big a bump Sunday is of course.

It's exuberant for him, doing a film that he himself has described as "testosterone-filled": "My PE in college was boxing."

Chocolate kisses

It was a double-note-rise for comedian Claudelle.

After rigorous auditions, he won the role of Oni, the dapperdowner's show-stopping sidekick in the latest version of the girl-centric book "Joanna Lumumuh."

"We ruled other hating given the role," manager Arnold Arguilla told reporters Saturday.

Most beautiful

Selette Arrastroff, 23—model and shoe designer, is Mega magazine's Most Beautiful Woman of the year. Runners-up are three more models: Yassmi Rasmsen, Nicole Hernandez and Isabelle Daza, daughter of Gloria Diaz Unite.

What? no shots for Isabel?

Sister publication Mega's 50 Hottest list is more star-studded.

On top is "Prison Break" Marsworth Miller. The rogues' gallery includes Desire Marsalis, the Hunt series Jessi and Pete, Orange Lea Pic of Hale and Sam Milby.

By the way ...

What is happening to "Prison Break" on the Crime/Suspense channel? Marsworth's wanted their are being driven nuts by the on-hiatus dwell!

Tori on big screen

LOS ANGELES—Tori Hatchet, star of the wave of the hit US series "Desperate Housewives," has signed up to star in a big-screen movie, the Hollywood trade publication Variety reported.

Hatcher has joined the cast of "Sweetening The Champ", a drama in which she will co-star with Josh Hutcher and Samuel L. Jackson. The movie will be filmed in Canada.

AP

BEAUTIFUL people, from left: Yassmi Rasmsen, Isabelle Daza, Nicole Hernandez and Marsworth Miller

Tiffa Hatcher

CHANP Lei Pe of Hale

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Robin Williams: World's funniest dad?

From page A9-1

My son wanted to stay and he said he wanted a place with a kitchen. So in the end, we had friends camping (laughter). But it was still because the Volkswagen had a pop-up roof and kitchen. But so, we had to stay inside the hotel. We ended up getting a suite inside a hotel room and ordering room service (laughter).

It's a fitting, what was the most beautiful family occasion that you remember?

Hoping. In January, Jody was pretty stunning. He looked a beam there. We're also had a lot of great vacations to Lake Tahoe, California.

What's your take on sex life?

My life is a weird thing because it is literally a mobile home. It's bigger than any SUV. You really have to know that, sometime you make a turn, it is like dancing with a very large woman (laughter). You have to give her room. Who gets roller time is a big deal (laughter).

How did fatherhood transform you?

The birth of my first son was really the wake-up call when you realize there is something other than you. You have a responsibility and once that happened...it really changed me. Once you have a child, it begins the process of knowing what your legacy is, what's your responsibility. Sometimes you will fail. You will fall down. You make mistakes but you just move on to the next step and you trust in yourself with what you are passing on to the next generation.

Are you protective of your daughter Zelda (who was present to the round)?

Incredible (laughter). She met a young man recently who was terrified of me like I was going to go, "What are you doing?" So we met him and I said, "I ain't hurt you." She is 16 and quite beautiful. She has a mellow vibe is very honest and very sweet with her. Zelda is also really bright which really helps. That is the best bit I've seen in the whole world (laughter). She has a great deal of intelligence and integrity which she gets from her mother and myself. But I think it is mostly from her mother. My son is not here right now because he is playing hide-and-seek in hell the with a group of 14-year-old boys reminding people. My other son is 25.

Your kids in this movie are pretty obnoxious. How about your own kids?

Zelda is not. But every child will have a moment where you realize why some animals eat their young (laughter). There is a moment where kids will push your envelope. It's their job to doubt, to question you, to push you, to say no. It's like the Mark Twain quote that goes something like "I thought my father was very ignorant. I realized the older I got, the more intelligent he became" or something like that. Cody pushed me on a daily basis because he is 16. That's his job. One time I was yelling at Cody, 16-year-old, "Do you realize you are 16?") were, "Thank you (laughter). "He was like, "Thanks."

Is it harder since you are a celebrity parents?

No thanks. Then any parent. The only thing that makes it more difficult is that other people notice it you do it publicly.

What father-son activity do you enjoy with Cody?

Shopping with him is fun because we have different tastes. It's pretty valid because we hit three different shops where he's only comparison clothes. He would go, "Dad, that's for me." And then I realize I was up buying clothes that make me look like a 54-year-old hip-hop guy.

Who do you think inherited your mind?

All of them in a way. Cody is a great writer. Zelda is a great actress. She is an intuitive. She senses good on the first day of filming her first movie. Zelda is also like me.

In the best blend of Christopher and Dana Reeve, how did you deal with their passing?

It was like an orchestra. You can't really process it. Dan Orth and that. Jana's mother and then Dana herself. You can't comprehend that on any level. I was at the memorial and it was the most amazing thing how melodious and very specific everybody was, especially Dana's son who is 14 and the most amazing combination of both of them. He spoke and it was the most beautiful way. Other than that, I can't comprehend.

I thought about you when I watched "The 40-Year-Old Virgin" because when Steve Carell gets his chest waxed, I remembered your own hairy chest.

I literally had a lady say as she was waiting me, "Do you mind if I take a break? (laughter)." Freak. It, they had to hire two women. And after three hours, they both were, "That's it."

Did you survive it, though?

I did. I've also been haired, which felt like you're being tortured and you want to give up information (laughter). It's the weirdest thing ever you chant a disassociative mental, all of a sudden you go, "I can feel my thinking (laughter)." "You don't have the right to breathe anymore. All of a sudden, you don't your nipples.

Why did you wax?

To be more muscular (laughter). So therefore didn't have to bring a wood scholar in bed (laughter). Because you have to wax your back. If you're older, people go, "What a lovely cat." I say, "Sorry, that's my chest hair." When you get older and all that hair starts to gray, there is a silver fox and now the golden go. "Fred What's that? (laughter)" And when you start growing hair to your ears, you go, "I can't hear you." All of a sudden, you have this mystery growing out of your nostrils (laughter). But when you get waxed, it is painful. You will literally scream name-out.

Tell us about your own father.

He was a vice president of Lincoln Continental. When he retired, he wanted that I was finally okay. He said, "If anything happens to me, take care of your mother." It was a game because he was kind of saying, "It's your turn now." It was tough for him because for him always taken care of us.

Did you learn anything from your father about sex, like changing it?

Nothing. I am totally inept. I know how to pull a Quaalude out (laughter). I have.

Friends who can take an orgasm apart and put it together. Not me.

[Email the columnist at rmpadua_5000@yahoo.com.]

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Sunday BIZ

Business Features Editor Margie Quimpo-Reyes
Text us your feedback: inquirer for sunday/globe/messages 2001* (distance rate charges)

Anger propelled CEO to excellence

CDC chief now bent on turning former base into world-class logistics hub

By Margie Quimpo-Reyes

IF CLARK DEVELOPMENT CORP/PRESIDENT and CEO Antonio R. Ng appears like he has a chip on his shoulder, it's probably because he has.

Ng grew up poor. People used to tease him a lot for the way he looks and for his odd-sounding name. Ng is of Chinese descent.

The insults aroused a deep anger in him, which he did not even realize was there until he achieved a measure of success. Only then did he see that the anger had channeled itself into a drive toward excellence.

And excel he did.

"I had the desire to be the best," Ng says in his smiles. So I gave everything my best, including ironing my own clothes. When I scrubbed the floor, it was always extreme finish."

Upon the recommendation of former Bataan Governor Enrique Garcia, Ng's boss (Secretary Gonzalez, who was then the presidential adviser on Clark), Ng was installed as CDC head in March 2005.

But Ng is humble enough to admit that he assumed success not without help.

"I used to think I was a self-made man," he says. "I realize now I am a God-made man. Before, I was the architect who prayed for me. And then it was my wife."

Ng sits as head of one of the most controversial and conflict-ridden posts in government.

Decisions made by several of his predecessors had stained reputations, some decisions were even mired in scandals.

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Ng is carefully aware of the issues having the distinct US-air base.

That is why he is now working hard trying to pass on to CDC employees the core values he has acquired while working with two multinational firms, and cut through the red tape hampering operations in Clark.

FIRST JOB

Sword of Damocles

On top of these, he says, the CDC has a Sword of Damocles hanging over its head in the form of a Supreme Court decision. The high court ruled that the CDC should not have granted tax incentives to its investors, and thus these businesses would have to pay back taxes. The taxpayers are in an uproar over the changing of the rules in the middle of the game—after all, the tax-free incentives were one of the reasons why the investors opted to put up their businesses in Clark.

The short-term solution is that all new investors to Clark should be registered under the Philippine Export Processing Zone. This would provide them the incentives.

But Ng says they need a long-term solution, and this requires legislation. So far, Congress has passed a law granting amnesty to existing investors, that another law has to be passed to give Clark investors tax-free incentives.

But Clark—very things are moving in Congress, the long-term solution is a long time coming.

For now, Ng is busy generating employment and creating economic activities in the area.

He plans to turn Clark into a world-class logistics hub, a center for light manufacturing and services, and a place for leisure and recreation.

Ng also wants to establish the needed infrastructure for convenient access.

He hopes to accomplish this by attracting more investors to the area. This is why Ng is trying to make it easier for new businesses to locate in Clark, cutting down application time by months.

Ng, it is a matter of serving performance goals among CDC workers.

He claims that in the permit processing, they have created a procedure where you can get your permit in ten minutes. So far, he says, they have achieved on-time delivery at a 97 percent rate.

Excite your people

"You have to excite people in your ministries," he says. "I talk to the employees once a month."

Ng espouses an open policy, especially in meeting with investors.

THE COMPLETION of the proposed Subic-Clark-Tarlac Expressway to link the two economic and creates a new economic corridor is part of the game plan of Tony Ng

"When there's an investor, I don't meet with him alone," he says. "I bring my marketing, customer service staff and others."

Ng says that by doing this, he can prevent talk that he relates to bandits or gain special privileges every time he meets an investor.

"As a leader I have two jobs—it is our duty to set expectations and to demand and insist on them. And to actively help overcome the obstacles people face to meet these expectations. It's a question of defining the expectations."

Ng's biggest challenge—if the ability his family were through, Ng wants to eradicate poverty. And the only way he can do this is by creating more jobs.

Ng was born in Bacolod, Cebu in August 1954, to a Chinese father and a Cebuano mother.

But his father died when he was only two. His mother decided to move to Davao where she could be with relatives who could help support her four children.

Ng was the only boy. He admits he was the favorite of his mother. But she did not exempt him from working.

"Early in life, as a young boy of 10, I learned to shine shoes, sell newspapers and roast pigs to earn extra income.

"In the evening, it was my duty to prepare

(MORE BIZ)

FORMER President Fidel V. Ramos cheers the opening of the Clark Expo with CDC staff

People, Events & Products

Edna Antes Espinosa

Pfizer helps bring new life to the community

AS A LEADING RESEARCH-BASED BIOMEDICINES company, Pfizer is committed to preserving and protecting the health of communities it serves. Its employees work to discover and make available safe and effective medicines that cure diseases and save people's lives. They also reinforce this commitment to the community by creating opportunities and participating in programs that help members of the community lead healthier and better lives.

Employee involvement, which involves offering their time, resources, energy, talents and leadership to help others, is part of Pfizer's culture, with Community identified as one of the company's core values. Pfizer recognizes that employee volunteerism brings benefits not only to the company, the communities and personal development of the employee but more importantly, to the members of the communities the company engages with.

In line with this commitment, Pfizer recently launched the Engage program which aims to promote the value of Community among its employees by providing them with various opportunities to share their time, resources and talents with the communities the company serves. This program features activities that promote the education, values formation and health of the members of these communities.

"Since volunteerism is largely encouraged in Pfizer, our employees have always been supportive of the company's community programs. The Engage program will create even more avenues for everyone to participate and help more people", said Sierra Villanueva, Pfizer corporate affairs director.

Recently, as part of the program, Pfizer volunteers worked hand in hand with residents of a Gawad Kalinga community in Bacoor when their completed road paving, painting and landscaping activities in 10 hectares in the village. Through this endeavor, the Pfizer employees were able to not only help enhance the appearance of their homes and surroundings, but more importantly, get to know the people they have committed to help and share their time and resources with during the rest of the Engage activities.

"The people of Pfizer have committed to Engage so that each one of us may embrace our social responsibility and play a role in bringing hope and the promise of a better life to more Filipinos," said Gerry Barreto, Pfizer president and country manager. "We hope that through our efforts, we may be able to make a concrete and lasting difference in these communities."

METROBANK IS A TRUSTED BRAND

Metropolitan Bank & Trust Company (Metrobank) garnered two Trusted Brand Gold awards in the recent Reader's Digest Asia's Trusted Brands 2006 survey. The country's leading bank won the awards for the Bank and Investment Fund Company categories. The winners were awarded based on the responses of consumers across ten Asian countries who rated brands in each product or service category according to quality, investment value, credible image, value, innovation, and understanding of customer needs. This is the third consecutive year that Metrobank was cited by Reader's Digest. In 2004 and 2005, Metrobank was awarded the Reader's Digest Super Brand Gold Award. In photo during the awarding ceremony are (from left) Jim Pfeuffer, editor-in-chief, Reader's Digest Asia (acknowledgment); Mark Caro, Reader's Digest country/cash fund advertising director; Darby Jay del Rosario, Metrobank assistant vice president and Mutual Fund Support head; Dee Ne Shin Lopez, Metrobank senior vice president and Corporate Planning head; Simon Chidlow-Hay, Reader's Digest regional advertising director, Asia; and Joel Ong, Reader's Digest advertising sales director.

13TH DSAP NATIONAL CONVENTION

The Drugstore Association of the Philippines (DSAP) signed a memorandum of agreement with its co-promoters and major sponsors for the upcoming 13th DSAP National Convention with the theme, "Expanding Boundaries" on Sept. 8 to 9 at Crowne Plaza Hotel. Highlights of the convention are opening ceremonies, more than a hundred exhibit booths, top caliber plenary speakers and more. Present during the signing were (seated, from left) Imelda Cuenca of Lasting Pharma, Judy Peralta of Peralta Arcega, Anne Fernando of Viara Lee, Xavier Villanueva of Pfizer, Celia Carlos, DSAP national officer; Ms. Hinda Pascual, DSAP national president; Sheila De Chavez, DSAP board chair; Rodel Fernando DSAP Convention chair; Mai Zabala of Unilever; and Ramon Nuñez, Thomas Guillermo of Pharex Health Corp. Lloyda Bella of Rhea; (standing, from left) Agnes Lorenzana of Indopik Direct Marketing Consultants, Jojo Fermin, Jojo Villa-Ignacio and Sue Brandon of Unilab, Paul Sucro of Pfizer, Tina Cruz of Astalan, Clint Ishal, DSAP secretary, Susan Ala, Shirley Ng, Marianne Fernando of Roche, Aris Escalante of Pharex, Chie Espinosa of Indopik, and Joel Lagdao of Pfizer.

MAYDAMI JOINS HANDS WITH BANTAY KALIKASAN

Maydami, in a bid strengthen its corporate citizenship in the Philippines, affirms it has been operating here for nearly a decade, recently installed several environmental cars and rehabilitation among its community service endorsement. Recently, Maydami has made a contribution to the renovation of the La Mesa Watershed by way of adopting 100 indigenous trees. The La Mesa Watershed is the last remaining forest in Metro Manila and the site of the numerous drainage pipes eaten by millions of people in the metro. Above, Bantay Kalikasan, the environmental arm of ABS-CBN Foundation, is currently in charge of the site's rehabilitation and protection. A simple turnover at the ABS-CBN Foundation Office was made by Maydami corporate affairs officer Irene B. Carandang (2nd from left) with corporate planning AVP Benedict S. Bautista. On hand to accept the donation is ABS-CBN Bantay Kalikasan operations manager John Paul Bulayan and senior resource mobilization officer Cristina A. Sevilla.

EPO PROVIDER PARTNERS WITH EYE FOUNDATION

The Education for Youth Enterprise (EPO) Foundation recently inked a partnership with EPI Foundation to implement "Pinoy Success Week" pilot project at the Cavite State University. EPI Foundation is the Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) arm of EPI, a private dealer in petroleum and servicing. Overseeing Pinoy success is the foundation's EPF Council CSR programs. "Pinoy is a first-day-learning concept which uses computer-assisted simulation game that gives students an overall experience in managing a medium-sized company. Signing the agreement were (from left) Lazo T. Apolo, director for CSR of EPI Foundation, Ernest L. Cu, chair of EPI Foundation, and Eileen Basa, executive director EYE Foundation.

NEW WENDY'S RESTAURANT OPENS IN SM MOA

Wendy's Intl., the biggest rival of the 38th Burger, is the site of Wendy's newest restaurant. Wendy's opened its doors to the public last May 31, in front of the SM Mall of Asia (MOA) complex. Wendy's MOA (Bay Wendy), celebrity with Wendy's SM Jazz Lin; Dale Espadero - Operations Director and Imee Moran, Marketing Manager.

NEWEST MEDICAL ENDORSER FOR AMARGOSIN

Dr. Edwin Bien (middle), head of Mfad's Epidem?, a member TV program on ABS-CBN Channel 2 (ANC) is the latest endorser for Amargosin, an antidiabetic food supplement. Amargosin is also the most researched amaralaya-cooking - the Mabuhay up lady. Photo shows Dr. Francis Gomez, president of Amargosin Early-Digest sharing thanks with Dr. Edwin Bien (middle) signing. Also in photo is Bob Domingo, product manager for Amargosin. Amargosin is manufactured by Pascual Laboratories and marketed by Alkemind Corp. Available at Mercury Drug and other drugstores nationwide.

TRUST OFFICERS ASSOCIATION OF THE PHILIPPINES (TOAP)

The Board of Directors for 2006-2007 (seated, from left) treasurer Ma. Elena S. Sarmiento, FVP and trust officer of PNB; vice president and director for ways and means Marivic V. Fausto, SVP and trust officer of PNB; vice president and director for events and membership Marivic V. Fausto, SVP and trust officer of Equi-PCI; president Ma. Lourdes T. de Vera, SVP of BDO; corporate secretary Benito T. Tongson, SVP and trust officer of Banco Filipino; (standing, from left) director for operations/events Jennie C. Duran, AVP of Metrobank; director for normative and publications/Journal Mr. Farias, OIC and trust officer of PDCP; director for legal and regulatory Antonino B. Hernandez VP and trust officer of JP Morgan; director for legal and ethics and education Ms. Teresa R. Tolosa, VP and trust officer of HSBC and director for membership Raul C. Diaz, SVP and trust officer of PBCom.

HANDS OPENS NEWEST BRANCH AT SM MOA

Hands' salons are a special meeting ground. Manila Lumberjacks Corp. opened its newest branch at the ground floor of the mall, SM Mall of Asia last May 30. The Makati shop boasts contemporary design, cozy ambiance, and a comfortable waiting area. The branch, one look, conveys the stylish features that can be seen in all Hands salons. Bentay Kalikasan, the environmental arm of ABS-CBN Foundation, is currently in charge of the site's rehabilitation and protection. A simple turnover at the ABS-CBN Foundation Office was made by Maydami corporate affairs officer Irene B. Carandang (2nd from left) with corporate planning AVP Benedict S. Bautista. On hand to accept the donation is ABS-CBN Bantay Kalikasan operations manager John Paul Bulayan and senior resource mobilization officer Cristina A. Sevilla.

ProductFILES

Bonding with Jolly Cheezy Fries

JOLLY CO BILLY BEES ARE HOT AND crispy, french fries dipped with your favorite toppings. And here's some. Imagine that your tastebuds can munch on Bo Bee Jolly Cheezy Fries Cheese 'n Bacon — a tasty treat that has a delicious cheesy taste, and topped with bacon bits. Yummy!

Jolly Cheezy Fries is available in all Jollibee branches nationwide. Enjoy your tastebuds on fun with the Jollibee barkada experience. Another Jollibee barkada booking.

It's ideally 'So Soft' tissue

SO SOFT MORAL TISSUE MEC! Bathroom tissue are high quality soft 2-ply tissues, which are ideal for the whole family. So Soft Tissues are made of two plies so as to maintain your proper hygiene and to provide significant convenience at a very reasonable price. It is soft and ultra extra thick, plus it is one you can use anytime, anywhere and everyone's agency. So Soft Tissue is exclusively distributed by Isonic.

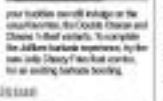

Photo inc. and available at SM Mall stands, Robinson's Big B, The Landmark, Puregold, Isetann, Cash & Carry and other leading supermarkets and department stores.

Power up with Bull Fighter

SUSTAIN YOUR ENERGY WITH BULL FIGHTER, AN ENERGY drink, from Chemical Factor (UAE), that contains a share of amino acids which helps improve stamina, promotes muscle build-up and aids in the regeneration of tired, stressed muscles. Bull Fighter is likewise packed with Vitamin C, which removes unnecessary sugar and calories. Aside from energy drink to be packaged in 150ml. aluminum can, PET bottles will be available soon. Bull Fighter is designed for vitamin-conscious, mobile home-to-convenient packaging. Bull Fighter is also the most affordable energy drink in the market today on a suggested retail price of P15 per bottle in supermarkets.

AUDI VOTED BEST CAR FOR 2006

The leading premium automobile German automotive authority 'automotor und sport' voted Audi number one among all luxury car manufacturers beating Porsche, BMW and Mercedes Benz in terms of quality, advanced technology and product appeal. Auditioned dual Marcel Winterkorn (right photo, second to left) from first place trophy at the recent Auto Motor und Sport awards night. In the Philippines, Audi Cars, the sole importer and distributor of Audi vehicles has more than doubled its 2005 sales figures figures compared to that of the previous year.

MISS TEEN PHILIPPINES 2006 WINNERS

Miss Teen Philippines, the premier search for the 'the girl next door' in the country, concluded its search last June 1 at the UP Theater. Taking home the crown is Pampanguena beauty Jolleen Marie E. She also took home the Mrs Teen Jag award for her outstanding thin leg image with the poise and grace of a true beauty queen. Other winners were Nicole Sarmiento, 1st runner-up, Katherine Abano, 2nd runner up, Rosal Vi Tamayo, 3rd runner up, and Bea Villegas, 4th runner up.

Bits & Clips

Leadership seminar

KELLY MONTE-VERDE? of Its Be Leaders Inc., a leadership development and executive coaching organization, will be conducting a two workshop on "Creating an Enterprise with Multiple Streams of Income". Married to a Filipina, Mr. Monte-Verde designed a plan to empower Filipinos with sound principles of leadership excellence to achieve financial growth and stability. He is currently writing a book and developing the Be Known Leadership Studies. Hosted by Jigel Policarpio, the workshop will be on June 24, from 8 to 5 p.m. at the Manila Peninsula Hotel in Makati City, to become your yearly contact. Mgell's customer service at 635-1280 or 478-8758.

Basketball event in Manila

LAST GALI FOR THE MANAGER, a Point and Free Throw Shooting Contest, a joint project with the City of Manila hosted by Mayor Jose L. Atienza, Jr. and General Mr. Alonso Perez-Manila Mayor's Office, Department of the Manila Sports Council. Scheduled will be held on June 17, 10 a.m. to 12 noon, at San Andres Gym in Malate, Manila. The event is a "sports and citizenship activity" that is strengthen community and enhance the relationship among its residents as well as friendship in the business industry. For a period this event awarded event. Registration fee of P150 per category (free throw and 3-point) - grade/college division to win cash prizes: 1st - P1,000; 2nd - P3,000 and 3rd - P7,000. 300 participants will be accommodated on a first-come first-served basis on June 16. For more details please call the Event Secretariat at tel. nos. 551-0009 / 551-mobile numbers 0908-613-0318 or 0921-619-5271.

JAY ALDEGUER

Enabling young achievers to do more

A NEW breed of individuals referred to as "hyphenated people" has emerged over the last decade.

They get their name because they are believed to different people" but somehow have the best of both worlds.

One of them is Maybelline "Jo...a 30-year-old Cebuana who is an entrepreneur, fashion designer, writer and philanthropist to one.

The passionate about living life to the fullest. I try to do as much as I can in different avenues where I can express my creativity and love for the arts through marketing activities, and most importantly, being the best I can be," says Jo.

This single lady manages her furniture and home accessory manufacturing business while working for her daily column in the Sun-Star Daily and Inc Magazine, staying visible in the Cebu social scene and indulging in her many interests, including travel, going to the spa, exploring food, yoga, pilates, ayurveda, charity work, fashion, antiques, reading and listening to music, nothing else not and just recently, fishing.

"I have a challenging existence which requires me to get more out of life. Windows XP Home and Small Business helps me to my daily life because they make everything convenient and easy, even for the tech challenged like me," she says.

Windows technology also enables Jay Aldeguer, 35, to manage his multiple businesses and interests.

Aldeguer is best identified with his iconic rebel, Islands Souvenirs, which has been such a success that Aldeguer became the youngest person to be awarded the prestigious The Outstanding Young Men (TOYM) for Business Entrepreneurship.

Embodying the "hyphenated people" thinking, Aldeguer has dipped his hands in media and entertainment.

He established Europe, currently the leading events company in Cebu, and also launched Cebu TV Channel 28, a 24-hour regional cable channel featuring programs that showcase the Queen City and its people.

Aldeguer also sits on the board of Directors of the Cebu Chamber of Commerce, the YTOY Foundation, The Cebu Tourism Core Group and Cebu Yacht Center.

He is also commissioner of the Cebu City Sports Commission. He is previously the vice president to the Philippine Franchise Association and Philippine Retailers Association-Cebu chapter.

According to Aldeguer, throughout his work as an accomplished entrepreneur, he has turned out technology to help him manage his businesses better.

"Technology has made life much easier for me. It put me more organized and more efficient. I like that there are several options in convenience today's technology according to my needs. It also helps that different companies are working together to make their respective products compatible with each other," he says.

Like Jo and Aldeguer, 33-year-old entrepreneur cum sportsman Glenn Soco has been finds value in technology. Soco is the president of Cebu Orient Inc., the Windows Integrated Manpower Inc., and GA Satellite Ventures Inc. He also operates Ocean Star Bus. man Resources Management Inc., and is the president of the Cebu Volleyball Association.

Soco says that technology has really made the world smaller and has changed the way things are done. "Technology has a tremendous effect on me. It makes me do things faster, simpler and more effective. Technology has enabled me to achieve a lot of things and helped me realize the extent of my capacity to a person. I never would have done this much if it weren't for technology," he says.

Among the technologies which he finds useful are his Windows operating system, MSN, Internet Explorer and Outlook.

"I use Microsoft products because Microsoft has established itself as the leader of the IT industry. It's just like investing in a blue chip. You wouldn't want to put your money somewhere unreliable. You have to choose something that has a good reputation and a reliable support group," says Soco.

GLENN SOCO

Anger propelled . . .

From page B1

the dough, sinking the flour and yeast with my bare hands. My piece would make dozens each for the following morning by working the dough I prepared. The dozens would be sold by my mother in the public market."

In the afternoons, his mother would sell mercadito.

Ng earned five centavos from every rosas, pesos he said. He would sell 20 a day, so that gave him $1. That was in the 1960s when the peso still used a long wage.

"I did not really feel poor, except when I see other people and when they mock us," he says.

Despite the teasing and the snubs, Ng excelled in school and graduated salutatorian in high school. He was an entrance scholar at the University of the Philippines, which meant he got free tuition and did not have to pay the entrance exam. He studied engineering.

He says it was in UP that he realized how spoiled he was with his mother. There was one time during his first semester in college that he burst into tears, realizing that he was on his own.

He lived on P120 a month, which was a huge amount for mother and sisters had to raise.

To augment his income he volunteered in the research studies of senior students. The work earned him an extra P30 a month.

Career path

The time years passed quickly and soon he was working with San Miguel Corp. as a methods analyst. He says that in San Miguel, it would only take him one and a half months to the work that would normally take others three months to complete.

"I used to call myself the fixer," he says of his stint at San Miguel from 1971 to 1976.

He was pirated by Consumer Industries Inc. and became plant manager at the age of 28. He stayed there for four years.

At Intel Phils., he became operations manager. He stayed with the semiconductor firm for three years.

At Motorola Philippines, he became its first Filipino president and general manager. After three years, he became the country manager of Motorola Taiwan.

His success did not stop there. He was made head of operations of Motorola Radio Company, which is the firm's most complex manufacturing site.

It was not long before Anker got him and he stayed with the firm from 1982 to 2001.

Again, Ng became the first Filipino managing director of Amkor Technology Philippines, a subsidiary of Amkor Technology Inc., the world's largest outsourced manufacturer in semiconductor.

Ng retired at age 52. But he still took on a tighter job as CEO of CEP Global. In 2004, he set up the EMS CEO Consulting Group with "close CEO associates" and started their own new product line in electronics.

One time, Lyvia encouraged him to look at the power problems at Clark. He made a few suggestions which the official apparently ignored. But he ended up with EDC.

Today, Ng travels almost four hours each day to go to work. He says he still has a daughter who is studying at the control locale in Clark. But he says he does not mind. It's a site every day he serves as the pleasure of the President and that he may lose his job at anytime. But he also discovered that.

One thing is sure—nobody will look down on him because of his low source.

HOTONOLA Taiwan in 1997 visit by Jim Hachey, Motorola senior president

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Sunday BIZ

Buying a piece of Ifugao soul in Banaue

HARVESTA boat over Ft. 2005 a photo.

By Vincent Cabreza
PhilNorthern Luzon Bureau

BANAUE, IFUGAO—THE LOCALS here say a visitor can find the soul of the ancient Ifugao in the trinkets sold in the town's many souvenir shops.

Shops abound as tourism has become a primary industry in this Cordillera town, primarily due to its centuries-old rice terraces.

Residents like Fernando Tinagan, a 25-year-old sculptor, start his generation has learned to embrace this fate because it affords them the luxury of telling the people's ancient stories through PCS boy chains and PVC bowls.

CARABAO vases are affordable at P300 each

NETTAH shoulder purse sells at P100 a piece in View Point, Banaue Rice Terraces, Banaue, Ifugao.

YOURSH has been good to poor Ifugao.

Local governments of Ifugao have taken stock of this trend, and are adjusting their own traditions to suit the market.

The Banaue town council passed an ordinance last year to organize a harvest festival every two years.

Old practices required residents to celebrate that festival every four years. With a report from BY Espiritu, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau

here.

There items can be found all over this town, available in anyone who understands that delicate trade in all that keeps the younger Ifugaos from leaving their hometowns.

Social activists may frown on the commercialization of the Ifugao culture, but without tourists, Tinagan says, most people would leave the province to find better jobs or a better house in other places.

The province used to be the 4th poorest province, according to the 2003 list of the country's poorest provinces. It was displaced by neighboring Mt. Province in 2005.

One reason it tourists, which seems to have made a difference in this front.

The Department of Tourism recorded 17,420 foreign visitors here between January and March this year. Many of these visitors came from China, the United States and Europe.

On top of that, domestic tourists totaled 14,391 in the first quarter of the year, the DOT said.

Pangasinan's smelly bagoong

By Yolanda Brinda-Fuentes
PDI Northern Luzon Bureau

LINGAYEN, PANGASINAN—Whenever and wherever the craven set, chances are bagoong (salted fish paste) will be part of the menu, whether as dipper seasoning for vegetable broths.

And it's likely that the bagoong came from two villages in this province's capital town: Pangapisan and Mangaldan.

The concoction made the villages the pungent aroma of the condiment will lend you as them.

Bagoong has been a part of the fishing family habits, and the villages of Pangapisan and Mangaldan have been supplying the entire Bacandia with this exotic condiment that sometimes serves as a dish on its own.

Elsa Tiangson, 72, whose family owns the Tiangson Bagoong, says he inherited his bagoong-making business from his parents, who got it from their parents.

He says that according to the story passed on through generations, bagoong developed here because of the abundance of fish catch from the Lingayen Gulf. The elders decided to preserve the unconsumed or unsold fish by putting salt. Thus, bagoong was born.

But the Lingayen Gulf has run out of fish, a victim of illegal and cure fishing throughout the years. At present, about 300 bagoong makers in the two villages of Lingayen have to buy their supply from other regions, mainly from Bicol.

Tiangson says while other towns or provinces have their own bagoong making businesses, those manufactured in this town stand out because of the aroma and taste.

"We, we don't have any secrets," Tiangson says, "Except that we use the freshest fish and immediately process it. The old clay jars in which the fish is fermented could also be contributing to the special taste and aroma."

To maintain freshness, fish

A WORKER prepares jars filled with bagoong in barangay Pangapisan, Lingayen, Pangasinan.

A WORKER pours bagoong in bamboo cups said to be sealed in other markets.

A MAN stirs bagoong and salt at a bagoong factory in barangay Pangapisan, Lingayen, Pangasinan.

BOTTLED bagoong on display at a factory in barangay Pangapisan in Lingayen, Pangasinan.

bought from other provinces are lightly salted right after harvest. When it reaches this town, salt is again added to retain the desired level of saltiness.

Tiangson says they use a ratio of salt for every two cans of fish.

But Lily Peñaso, who owns JR's Bagoong, says the mix of friends is their own should watch the salted fish. If it looks rotten, throw it has enough salt.

Tiangson says bagoong making is a "very simple technology" of mixing the right amount of fish and salt and even food coloring.

All one has to do is wait for the mixture to ferment.

The Bureau of Food and Drugs, Peñaso says, has recommended only one brand of food coloring for bagoong.

Depending on the fish used, the fermentation can take from three to six months. But the boneless kind may take a year, Tiangson says.

Among the fishes used to make bagoong are dilis (long jawed anchovy), small galunggong (round scad), alubihan (striped mackerel), terong (similar to anchovy) and pakan (tilapia fry).

Other processors make alamang paste (tiny shrimps), which is still available in the Lingayen Gulf but is difficult to harvest, Peñaso says.

Bagoong-making brings jobs to villagers.

While mainly household-based, each household now employs from 10 to 50 people.

In the past few years, some businessmen have been introduced by bagoong makers to market their products.

Jeanette Blanco, owner of JBR Bagoong, developed the boneless kind in bottles after a dance awkward only the bagoong sauce, without the fish.

JBR bagoong is the only direct exporter of bagoong in the province.

The other bagoong makers followed Blanco's example.

"[The boneless bagoong] has a market. City folk who want to pour bagoong from the bottle, without the fish, prefer the boneless bagoong," Tiangson says.

Last year, JR's Bagoong joined the world of singit (small) and put different bagoong products in sachets.

Peñaso says her daughter Evelyn thought of putting bagoong in sachets, just the way vinegar and soy sauce are packaged in small quantities.

Gladys, 29, is a marketing graduate who is interested in introducing innovations to the generations-old bagoong business, Peñaso says.

The sachets are perfect for pasalo and for those on a budget.

Sold in sachets are bagoong paste (salted shrimp), pure fish sauce), boneless bagoong (fish sauce), bagoong dilis (salted anchovy), and guisong alamang (sauteed tiny shrimps).

JR's Bagoong is so far the only one selling the condiments in sachets.

But Tiangson says it is still the "old-style" bagoong that is their bona seller.

Sunday LIFESTYLE
Editor Chela Bautista-Formoso

More 'What I've learned from Dad' D1-D3

From Dad, with wit, wisdom and then some

COUNT ON DAD TO KNOW WHAT TO SAY AT the exact moment it needs to be said. Children may run to Mom when they need TLC, but it seems the Big Guy is the one who gives them the rules when they're confused about the game of life. So much darn good advice from fathers is written on pages today, thanks to the generosity of inquirer.net readers who wrote us about what their papas taught them.

Not surprisingly, the parental guidance that our respondents most fondly remember —and keep to heart, as they say—pertains to faith in God, devotion to family and pursuit of education. Some dads didn't use words but taught by example, living their lives with integrity and honesty. "I wonder what advice corrupt fathers—either governance officials or private persons—give their children who are aware of what their fathers are doing," writes one reader. For thanks to all of you who shared the lessons you've learned from your daddies. Unfortunately, as hard as we've tried to find space for all of that fatherly love and wisdom, we can only print some. Here's to dads—yours and ours!

A sense of lighthearted coziness will make any circumstance more memorable, and a sense of humor will carry you through most anything. —Joanna Poyaoa, mental of Tod, daughter of Mister Jerome

To stand my ground, be stud when I need to be and be kind when I need to have. My dad has always told me that being soft wouldn't get me anywhere. —Rae Vallejar of Makati City

That it's never too late to go back to school. Even after I graduated from college and I was contented with my job, my father urged me to take up a graduate degree. One evening, I told my father I planned to take up MBA Literature. So was so delighted that he enrolled with me. (He already has an MBA.) My dad and I are now on our sophomore year in graduate school. But I must admit the pressure is now double. Not only do I have to work hard to get good grades; I also have five up to Dad's expectations. But nobody said that having your dad as your classmate would be easy. —Jen Bathanan of the Manila Times School of Investment

When I was nine or 10 or 7, we would hear a neighbor chopping meat in the middle of the night which, according to my family is covered from various evils from witches. He proudly told me that we, his children, are never fed with useless food but with harvests from our small farm. He advised me to hold to my principles in my going or meeting any asking wagging peoples, which to this day I have taken hold of. —Marinette L. Garcia of Tarlac City

That my overdoing I do will turn out right. Believe most not cause me to despair but I trust me there as stepping stones to success. —Dave Angeles of Cebu City

He is a good example... dino may he die we, not more of no bad time drugs, smoking and other vices, none has been into trouble. —Exhibit D. Andin of Valenzuela City

My father's advice is me: "Kung ano ka mayaro, dun ka." do what you want, don't let anyone affect your decisions when you know that you will be happy... If you realize your decision is wrong, quit and move on. —Rhea Mei S. Bagsing of Inland Bulacan, QC

To be independent. My father made sure my sister and I could drive by the time we reached 18. He made sure we obtained the car, I took care of it and he taught it to the service center he supervises. If we had plans to go out with friends,

Hugs to hugs by. And integrity. —Dave Calderon of ANC, son of King King Calderon

"On Father's Day, we want to treat dad like a king."

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Dad gets a Businessman's Lunch or Dinguisan Dinner for free at Think from June 1 to 30 if he dines with 3 paying guests who gets the same order.

Visit Bocaccio, Emperor Court and the Coffee Shop from June 1 to 30 and get a bottle of wine on the house with a minimum bill of P1,200.

Make a reservation at Jeepney Cafe on June 18 and get a complimentary cake and bottle of wine for free when you order from the Father's Day Menu. For the rest of the month, get 20% off your entire bill.

Get a Free cake and bottle of wine if you visit us on June 18 and get a 20% discount in Palm Court Cafe & Bar, Bellevue, Fandani and Sky Lounge anytime in June.

Treat Dad to a Free meal on June 18 with a minimum of 3 paying guests. (3+1) plus get a complimentary bottle of wine with a minimum total bill of P1,000. For the rest of the month, get 20% off your entire bill.

All offers are valid for cash transactions only except at Manila Diamond Hotel. Promo duration is June 1 to 30, 2006.

Call 730-1000 or log on to www.globeplatinum.com.ph for more details.

only for you, ang lakas mo sa Globe

From Dad, with wit, wisdom and then some

work is him. —Crystal Gail Mesaglo-ash Ilao of QC

My dad is not the type who sits down and watches TV when at home. He helps my mom run the household. Whenever he would assist us, he would purchase a wide "Nong panahon ito... [Dating ten time..." We use to tired in all age where everything had to be ruined, where things should not for sakon for granted. —Jayde Sabing of Pateros-ngan City

To me his beautiful memories. I am a daddy's girl, but my papa grew up under the strict eye of my mother's life, so my papa is not as demonstrative as I would want him to be. As everyday kiss, smile and hug he gives me is stored in a memory box which I refer to only from time to time. I just wish I can see him more often because God save us if he doesn't want to hold me tight, but in his eyes I can see he also feels the memories like those. —Isabel S. Lipanese of QC

To appreciate life. "Si Inna par ako pobida at ni pompa ito ing'imat no si dokan en ha sarolin. Do not cry for having lost the way, for the tears will make you fail to see the stars." When I was young, my father made me memorize this Ilonggo saying when I cried about a broken toy. As I grew older and encountered trials, I realized that the advice was to give me a better appreciation of life and pushed me to value things normally taken for granted. Last year, my father died. The memory of his advice didn't ease the pain of losing him. But it made me grateful for five beautiful decades, a loving husband and all the wonders of life. —Veronica Salvajon Jimenez of Iyoki Alabang, Muntinlupa City

To have focus, determination and discipline. My dad firmly believes that in order for one to give his best, one has to have these. He says that life is filled with ups and downs. What is important is that in every thing we do, we have to put our whole mind, body and soul into each undertaking. Without loss, success or fail — what matters most is that we gave it our best shot... It's parents at all times. This gives me the courage to persevere and plenty of space for learning and growth. —Shannon Ray J. Ambrosio of Sorsogon City

To be the best that I can be in my career and I can be in every way. I can vividly recall Dad's words when I got a 1.8 in one of my law subjects during my first year. He said, "I told you you can do it if you really try." He also taught us to help people in need but never broadcast it. "Si da-ed, good deeds pasad," he said. —Christabella L. Sandagan of San Idaro, Iloilo

To have a sense of responsibility. My dad trained me how to come up with a well-thought-out decision. He told me to face the consequences of the decision I make, be the right or wrong one. He has the courage to do it himself was a policeman. He likewise taught me to be humble, to value integrity and honesty, and to always have God in my heart. —Sharma M. Kinamlan of Cebu City

He encouraging taught me to do whatever it is I want to do because we will all die eventually anyway. —Adam Kapsan of Manila

To think twice before quarreling. My father taught me and my siblings that to quarrel and have undue power was foolish. "So why bother to start a fight?" he asked. So I learned to be patient with my siblings and continue to have a sense of humor and understanding and to be the master of my emotions so as not to flash overboards me. He also taught me to appreciate pain and suffering he drew will only make me stronger and a better person. —Josephine Sorreles A. Bacillio of Bulacan, Bulacan

To be brave. On Oct. 1, 1995, at 8 a.m., my mother, up to an urgent call during Sunday Mass. It all happened so fast. I got to call my dad on the cell phone before it fell into the water was wet. At 8 a.m. we were on a neighbor's cockpit with several other families and started our journey to Cebu City. We were all very scared but we were able to make it safely. —Jennifer Sorreles A. Bacillio of Bulacan, Bulacan

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Pay attention to the small things in life. —Nino Silverio, head of public affairs, PLDT and former consul Gen. Lucerne Swiss

course is the one where your passion lies." When he told me was to follow my dream. And I did just that. —Arnulfo Ruiz G. Tanjay of Tanjay City

It's important your daughter even if others fall short of her ideal. My father was a man of the highest integrity. Business would grow him hosts or no 100 open U.N. in whatever mistake without collateral. Instead, my father chat when he promised something, he would do it or whatever it can call or to keep that promise. He couldn't say no to friends especially when they were in need. He has the greatest stock of his life which his Dad friend, who was like a brother to him, stunned him of a large sum of money and left the country leaving behind debts. My mom asked Dad, "Why don't you pay a TS or a sorsra from our things for tax left like what the others are doing so that at least you could get some compensation for your lost?" My dad replied, "Mama, I will too be a winner. Never mind if we were cheated by others as long as we are not the cheaters. Our lives will never be worse than those who have cheated us." When Dad died of cancer, the church was filled with people who were from the highest echelon of the local Chinese community. They wanted to pay their last respects to a man whose integrity was impeccable.—Evanka Chupungcoan of San Juan, Metro Manila

My dad always found opportunity in my moment. That is one thing I always remind myself of whenever I feel restless. —Lina Rose, qualifier of the Rizza Group of Restaurants

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My father taught me to always treat people with dignity and respect. —Ingo Pfeiffer, (Visual Poet) visual multimedia artist, son of Pilot Pfeiffer

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Enjoy the fun & fizz of Green TEAZZ now! Get them in Robinsons Supermarkets and Mustang Convenience Stores.

From Dad, with wit, wisdom and then some

Never fail to say anything. —Nicole Severino of QVNA T, son of Rodolfo Severino Jr.

From page B1

That poverty is not a hindrance to achieve one's goal in life. My father was very young during WWII, and set he helped his parents and siblings by buying and selling dried fish severely. He took all odd jobs to earn for his family. He just finished fourth grade but he was very smart until high school. He helped my mother put up a balanti business that enabled them to send us to college. He's not perfect, but I've also learned that perfection is not a prerequisite to being a loving and lovable person. —Br. Avelal L. Mendiluo of CSF Los Baños, Laguna

To value education because whatever happens nobody can steal it from us wherever, however and whenever. —Lily Ann Pasion of Baguio City

> To someone who "takes you as is God's gift to you, and strives you to do same when you are a unique gift (what)." —Eve Servidores

To live as Cy Masaline says: "Avoid boasting. If you see something in you that pulls you with pride, look closer and you will find more than enough to make you humble." —Ayil Bombasa

My father has been gone for almost 16 years now. He died when I was 2, but he taught me very well... A person's absence can teach a whole lot more than a person's wise words which are usually ignored or less learned. In life God has taught me to discover his important lessons on my own. —Daniela Marie Bellgado

Easy does it, easy on, easy off. He's so contradictory. He says so many things but he's so consistent in his principles. He's a man of his word. —Edward P. Guerrilla of Calabanga, Camarines Sur.

Whenever you are lost, go back to the basic and you will find the right way. I was in 10th grade then, the following year I lost him. Before I perceived this adversity to be related only to my problems, I always asked him to teach me whenever I did not know what to do with those ifs and t's. He said I should just think of the mother formula and basic concept and then I could solve the problem. As I grow older and learned of life's realities—tests, confusions, comparisons I think about my family—basic unit of society. When I go home and see my sisters, my siblings and their children, I've realized what my priorities are and know how to say no to temptations. Indeed, my dad's advice is a wise one. Thus it guided me when I got lost in search. Now it guides me when I get lost in daily life. —Dereck Prince of Procter and Gamble

To live a life of hard work, honesty and integrity. Having grown up without a father, since my grandfather passed away when he was still very young, my father persevered and, in time, was rewarded the honor of being a steward of the law of the land as an associate justice of the Supreme Court. —Odd Lopez

"I try to practice these by always because that will make you work harder to achieve them. He was a very good man, he taught values of saying God. —Leira Cruz, daughter of Pierre Cruz

Sunday LIFESTYLE

More wit, wisdom and then some from Dad

If you think you know everything, you still never learn. —Nina Ilet Viamonte, daughter of Henry T. Go

HE LOVES SPORTS AND IT HAS RUBBED OFF on me. He took time to coach me to play tennis, baseball, and all sorts of sports himself. He he never fawned or pressured me. He taught us to love what we do, in my case, he even gave me a chance to do what I love by getting me into the sports business.—Kobe Claudio of Toby's Sports, son of Roberto Claudio

The most important lesson my father taught me dawned on me while he was in a coma, after he and my mom figured in a car accident in the US early this year. That is to love sports, to say it and show it... it took after the unfortunate accident he passed away I wasn't even able to say how much I love him.—Harriet Ynsiong, daughter of Absalon Ynsiong

Commitment, respect, discipline, simple joys, hard work and serving for a rainy day are the most important lessons I learned from my father. I also admire how he exhigorously continues to respect the Chinese tradition. He taught us the value of work, dignity and saving for the future, to be self-reliant and no gaps in hobbies like assembling cars... and work on radio.—Lizanne Uychaco, daughter of Domingo Uychaco

MORE WIT D2

That no one will ever love you more than your family, that it's the reason for all your hard work and sacrifices to your family, the journey will be inspired and noble.—Andy Abia of Avellina, Rina Fernandezon, son of Jose Abia

When the family learned of my smoking and drinking, my mother cried a bucket and threatened to stop supporting my studies. But my father's few words were what I will never forget: "Mauy-hinap lang" ("Slow down"). Sow with pain in my joints and slivers in my intestines, he words found me.—Cherry Pie(3), daughter of Lydia Pin(6)

Persistence hard work leads you to success; not "pasikat," connections, or making impressions but being a hard worker.—Manny A. Rita II, trainer, consultant, university instructor professor and church ministry worker, son of Cyrano Rita

My mother always tells me and my brothers that in their (almost) 40 years of marriage, my father never raised his voice or hex he taught us by example.— Ina Villanueva of Bienvenue Manor, son of lawyer Democrito "Otot" Villanueva

That love of family is essential and not to be taken for granted, no matter how busy we are.—Julie Alegado-Vergara, president of Alegado Group of Companies, daughter of Arevalo "Dodong" Alegado

That in this world, in order to succeed, you must delay your gratification; that you must do what's right no matter what, for if the doesn't have you at first, in God's perfect time, it will.—Cheleh Moreno, daughter of Manila Mayor Lito Atienza

To take care of your business as you would take care of your spouse. If you neglect them for one day, they will neglect you for a month. This, I learned, is applicable to all other things that are valuable to me as well...employees, friends, family, suppliers, business partners.—Miguel Alba of Alba Restaurant, son of Don Anastacio de Alba

Be careful what you pray for. God answers our prayers. I've weren't kidding, Tatay!.—Brenni Dhatu, drummer of Barfly and Overdrive, son of Godofredo E. Obaña

[illegible] while we are still here, you should keep on trying, in terms of establishing your own business, because no matter what happens your mom and I will always be here to help you get back on your feet.—Bonifacio Ong, son of Antonio Ong

That you can do anything you set your mind to...he taught me to be aware of the present, of the now. Credo to know he had a dreamer on his hands and he had to teach me to be grounded, to be in the "present tense" of things.—Christopher Paris Lacson, son of Alexander Lacson Jr.

Pray to never end to gratitude. By my dad's example, he has taught me the immeasurable wealth that kindness, hard work and a simple life can bring.—Lizine Santana of BSBC, daughter of Louie Lumbres

To drowning and not [illegible] nothing comes easy in this world. —Therese Consuel of Cinderella, daughter of Eduardo Consuel

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More wit, wisdom and then some from Dad

At age 14, when my dad was giving me driving lessons, he asked me to stop at an intersection and stop my foot on the accelerator while he mentioned to (his PhD) drinking buddies (sipping beer) over weight traffic. Startled, I gave away to people who make a living by driving," he said. "They are only trying to earn more income since they have a family waiting to be fed."—Jenver Punzalan of Mercedes S. daughter of the late Pedro B. Tuazon, Sr.

To be grateful for pain because it lets us know we're still alive.—**Zaac Bonquilla**, daughter of Antonio Bonquilla

To always do your best. My lack of resources should never stop me from reaching my dreams but rather it is the best obstacle to be overcome.—**Mendhel Sabora-Berbisio**, daughters of Ramon B.Taburos

I come from family of teachers and educator but always knew the priority of my family. My father would always remind us to study and to be diligent until after college. He would always tell us that we have nothing except education. I guess this lesson has been ingrained in me that I have become the person I am now always wanted. I've realized with their sweet encouragement a teacher- nothing has given me more fulfillment than seeing my former students already working. —**Angeline Liwliwan**, daughter of Henry Liwliwan

Every time I overslept or wake up to the afternoon, my Ita always says, "Iyon't wanto too much time sleeping. You'll have plenty of time for that when you die anyway" And he laughs me out to be shy or to feel embarrassed whenever I deal with other people. "As long as you don't beg from them this food on your table, you don't have any reason to be ashamed," he said. —**RJ Collado**, son of Marino Collado

My late father was not your stereotypical police investigator. Despite his position, my dad took the road less travelled by most cops to uniform. My dad's examples taught me to be always honest, respectful, and sincere to others.—**Chris Cabildo**, son of Marian Cabildo

"Don't feel like me. My father is a lawyer and he tells me time to time that my weight.—**Eliseo Cuenca**, son of Elida Cuenca

Never make excuses and always be friends with everyone. If someone does something bad to me, we don't have to stoop to their level and get revenge. To not be so emotional because we may get carried away and end up doing or saying things we'll later regret; being emotional is good but it's also destructive as a matter level. —**Cheryl Tiu**, of Makati, daughter of Jerry Tiu

He showed me humility and it's a lesson I will forever treasure. I learned from his examples.—**Marissa Santos**, hog designer/exporter

Two things. To be fair, which I learned from his examples, and to always be gracious, especially when losing numerous.—**Mitch Dizon** of BIR, daughter of Hervie Dizon

I learned many things from my dad—discipline, integrity and hard work—but the best advice my dad gave me is to value family above everything else, to always look out for each member and to work hard to protect the values they've shared with us.—**Bryan** Lim of Bonch, son of Ter Lim

Before going into something you must make sure that the hesitancy in your life is well taken cared of, and that's your family. There won't be fulfillment or happiness if you don't have a happy family.—**Jennyfer Gonzales** of BLEE, son of Henri Gonzales

I had wanted to be a writer and an activist but my dad advised me to instead take up business administration in UP. Now I use marketing and entrepreneurial principles for events that we manage, concerts or recordings we produce, contracts we negotiate, and artists and songwriters we sign.—**Jose Marie Antonio Bonquilla**, daughter of Antonio Bonquilla

He taught me by example. He created all his patients with kindness and compassion and never spoke ill-ch-ot poor, in home, he loved working, like cleaning our yard even if we had a gardener. The best piece of advice he gave me (but continues to inspire me) "Be honest to all your understudings" and "Love and serve your fellowmen well."—**Dr. Jaime Gabriel Tan** of UE son of Dr. Jesus Javier Tan

To remember Him: "Wiki kirin there is no question."
—James Ramos of Manic One, son of Fred Ramos

He would often tell us that he had no inheritance to pass on, but good education was enough to secure our future.... Now a mother of two, I cannot stress enough on my own children the value of education.—**Agnes Nerika Espino of Ac-ac Philippines Inc.**

To learn how to work while we're still young.—**Janen Campos** of Globe Telecom, son of Emmanuel Jose B. Campos

He taught me the true meaning of discipline which includes, punctuality, table manners. I used to wonder what the big deal was, it's just utensils. It was only when I got older and started to have a genuine appreciation that I appreciated what a valuable lesson that was. I know which forks and knives to use.—**Tony Rodrigues**, son of Jose Carlos Rodrigues

"Don't feel like me. My father is a lawyer and he tells me time to time that my weight.—**Eliseo Cuenca**, son of Elida Cuenca

"Don't feel like me. My father is a lawyer and he tells me time to time that my weight.—**Eliseo Cuenca**, son of Elida Cuenca

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"Don't look happy daughter every time I get up in the morning. I owe my great disposition to him.—**Annie Ringor**, daughter of Leonardo "Dog" Delgado

He not be afraid to make mistakes. They are the beginning of wisdom. Get up, correct yourself and do better until you become the best. Many times, people won't you fail, wanting for you to give up. But these failures are exactly the golden moments of opportunity that have led to destruction for the foolish, to great discovery and strength for the wise.—**Br. Ed Castobuhan**, president of the College of Surgeons, son of Ed Castobuhan

It is not a man rightly, not kindly, it's derived from the Spanish saying that 'no mali, hindoon kilik' a man.—**Alice Cantos**, daughter of Adriano C. Yongson

Read, read, read and open your mind. Never waste your food given talents.—**Edd Fuentes**, son of Filomeno F. Fuentes

To save value under the most stressful circumstances and in handling a situation. I have proven it many times as the best weapon to overcome trying times.—**Ariel Lacuesta**, son of Benjamin Lacuesta

To value our relaxation and study hard. He was a good role model for us.—**Dario Medes**, son of Jesus A. Saldes

My dad caught me smoking when I was in seventh grade. He asked me what I smoked and how long I had been into it. He told me that (three) cigarettes caused her on that month's. He demanded that I try them. After two puffs, I coughed terribly hard, almost choking. I didn't want to smoke anymore but my dad ordered me to finish the (rest). I tried and pleaded and went through an hour of nervous about the adverse effects of smoking. He explained to me what "point of no return" meant. I never wanted to smoke after that.—**Marichu Ordal**, daughter of Rodolfo M. Ordal Jr.

Whenever you entrust your help to someone, never never expect anything in return, otherwise you will never be happy. I heard the same from my husband when we got married. But the best example I got from Papa is his love for our Blessed Mother.—**Agnes Quintos**, daughter of Jose O. de la Torre

To remember Him: "Wiki kirin there is no question."
—James Ramos of Manic One, son of Fred Ramos

When I was about seven, I was scolded and spanked by my father for cursing. He said badly I was made to understand that words were taboo, and I learned to treat with respect and consideration part of the family. Luckily said that if I turned out to be a bad adult, people wouldn't blame me. Instead, he said, people would blame them (my parents) for being unable to guide and instill the right values in their only child.—**Mila Abes**, daughter of the late Professor M. Abes

If the earth is like dust in comparison to the universe and we are microbes living on it, all things that we have and have been doing here on earth is senseless and worthless. So what's good for you is to live your life and follow whatever it is that's going to make you happy. Pursue it! If that makes you happy, someone will find fulfillment and happiness in God's greatest gift to all of us, ourselves.—**Vincent Padilla**, son of George Padilla

To be confident in myself and my abilities. When I took the Ateneo College Entrance Test, I told my father that it felt more difficult than the Upcat. That you should study three if you passed, he said. I did, and I eventually earned my Ateneo degree from the same.—**Paul Ryan B. Subaran** of Project 4, QC

To read, read, read. Be sure you can read, my father says. The happiest and most memorable part of my childhood were spent reading.—**Edith Magsikap-Garcia** of San Andres, Manila

We are a family of dancers, and my father is the boss of them all. My husband, however, has two left feet. Even then, early in our marriage life, I expressed my irritation to my father when, during a large family gathering, I was left a lonely wallflower. My father gently pointed my hand and said, "You've got to love it, to want to learn it." he said. I learned a valuable lesson in life that I now apply in everything I do. As for my husband, years later, he discovered a love for dancing, took up dance lessons and now, we can do a mean rueing tapolo.—**Engr. Gemmen Salvacion** of Bindalayong City

To work with integrity and dedication, because no work is "menial." When my siblings and I were younger, he assigned household chores, and we were compensated accordingly. He could have made us work for free, but receiving "wages" helped us to value our work more and earn for our work instead of asking for dole-outs.—**CB II Gamaelon** of Loyola Heights, QC

To be responsible in everything we do. I had my Tatay when I was only 16. Nanay became our only parent, but I managed to finish college, get a job abroad and be successful.—**Celia de la Cruz-Herrin** of San Pablo, Malolos, Bulacan

To always remember that no matter how much I should give up in order to help those who are in need. The way to succeed in life is when many can be helped. I've learned to do this not only in my own small way. Nevertheless, I've been helping others as to my own.—**Ninggot de Vera** of Projects, Cebu and Cebu Pacific, daughter of the late E. Perez

To study hard, because education is the most valuable legacy a parent can give his children.—**Rodolfo** "Rudy" Sandoval, he taught me forgiveness in my mind, and I teach this my children despite the difficult growing-up years devoid of all the luxuries in life.—**Perry Gibe-on** of Iloilo, Cavite

To keep my heart in the face of disappointment and look at defeat not as an end but as a new beginning. My father died on June 21, 2005, after battling cancer for seven years. He taught me a tenacity my heart, and he strong enough to face these.—**Ruby C. Joson** of Hsieng, Laoag City

To be prepared for what lies ahead, and that not everything in life comes easy. I've always thought of my father as strict, but I now realize he is only preparing me for the great adventures that lies ahead.—**Danielle Demesa** of Makati City

To play fair and never cheat. My father, Rodel Angel Rivera, taught us that we have to work hard for whatever we want, for "somebody gains 20 hair up malamangan ng iba kung hnp draw ang matalo nang si Aquino, ha." "—**Maria Lia R. Rivera** of Daang Hari

To be be respectful and loving children, obedient students and, most of all, God-fearing persons. From him we've learned discipline and respect for other people.—**Elizabeth Kevin L. Bonaga** of Emmanuel City, South Cotabato

To be patient, and to put one's faith in Allah. I remember being angry one time because I couldn't get my late cousin since we had to go to town. I was crying in my room when my father approached me and said, "It's better to run away from a fight, to live another day and fight again." What he meant was, while he couldn't afford to send me to school, that didn't mean I should give up my dream. We were poor because he wasn't corrupt, and as his son, I would walk with my head up high because my father had kept his integrity. This coming school year I still hardly enrolling in a law school.—**Ronald Ampong** of Cotabato City

1. Reading a book is like eating chocolates. Not only would you enjoy reading, but you would also experience the good feeling of savoring every information that you had read.

2. If you want something, you have to want it so badly that you would exceed your own expectations just to reach it.

3. God gives us rocks to suppress and memories to conquer, but in every test that we engage in our lives, God is with us.—**Jannell R. Cajudet** of Dimasalang, Cavite

"May ovel ising mag-ol" was my dad's constant reminder to us when we were younger. For me, I had was makulit then. But now that I am married and with my own son, I've realized how right he was.—**Maria Rhea Bonzalle-Buenaventur** of Lagro Subdivision, QC

To be humble. I grew up knowing that my father is an implementer—he matches his words with concrete action. He is decisive, and to any unbalanced eyes, mean. But that was the secret of his words. I've found out that my opinions matters to him, and I just have to ask so I can receive. Pilch age, people really do see things with new eyes.—**Cleona Mae L. Sanchez-Salvacion** of Shelfred Homesite, Cabanatuan City

To think God for all blessings, big or small. What warmed his heart was that he never ran out of blessings to thank God for, so much so that he had no chance to give attention to his worries, failures, or regrets.—**Maria Elena T. la O** of North Greenhills, San Juan

To remember four rules in life.

Do not lie. Do not go anywhere without telling me. Do not ever touch anything you do not know how to handle and do not underestand. And do not be intermeddle, and rules, what is not yours.—**Rhia Lizmarie Dorsuyo**

To simply be a good person. My father, Hilario Gaminde Ey, is turning 60 this coming November. He has no vices, sees his love to be a good provider and a good disciplinarian, and to live with a modest lifestyle. Recognition and accomplishments are nothing compared to the genuine faith residing in salvation that my father has instilled in us.—**Eleanor G. Ey** of Imus, Cavite

To be punctual and hardworking at all times. My father was always prompt for an appointment. Rain or shine, he reported to work, even when Martial Law had been declared and tension gripped the whole country. I learned so many values from my father and he is the prime reason I am where I am today

achieve, just like what Papa has taught us.—Rizzup Antonio Pe of Dumaka II...Pinoy City

To survive with good cheer, and to be a good person to everyone. My Tatay, Semp T. Gombio, was the one who illustrated "Tablanca" and "Walengke Queen" in (then Ateneo Public school) Komiks... Our family went through a lot of hardships, but I never heard him complain. Tatay always knew how to make things easier with his gifted sense of humor, and that made the tough times easier to

To be unsurpassing in our integrity and to decide to always stay on course. Being smart just a little, he said, and you'll end up like a lunatic that went off course on one point and found itself in a totally different orbit. —Barry Bluffett, daughter of Emmanuel Pelaez

bear.—Rosary Judith Guerrero Ivanhoe of Tayug, Ilocos

To do your best in whatever you are doing. Think of work as something that should be done by you or else nobody would do it. Before was the boss of a government agency, but he rode public transport, helped clean up and in our community, and tried to assist those who were less fortunate. Maybe this is why I chose to be a social worker.—Jeanne Stella Bautista of Nova Ecar Camacle, Kalookan City

To have determination, a sense of sacrifice, and, most importantly, faith in God. "May isang pig Jijoy" is what I learned from Tatay, who barely made it to high school but managed to send four kids to school by working as a tailor. He made sure we would a southwardible life.—Ruth D.Tolentino of Davao Living Subdivision, Pardubugan City

I come from a family of academic achievers. Even if my grades are only average, my father doesn't mind me, but just reminds me that reaching the top doesn't mean walking asleep but sometimes staring at that when I reach the "summit" I won't tumble and fall down. Now, when I fail, I tell myself it was just a test, and I try to do better next time.—Jubilee Phyllis Manzano, Tadic of Bonifacio Heights, Marikina City

To keep busy. Growing up, we'd be required to read the dictionary for an hour. I remember that in the summer we were given exercise activities, and every imaginable chance we could take to keep us busy and entertained. It was Papa who ensured that we stuck to schedules and deadlines. Papa always awoke by the hour: he woke up at 6 a.m., leaves at 7 a.m., for meetings at 8 a.m. Then lunch at 12 noon, meeting at 1 p.m., dinner at 7 p.m.—Jenna E.J. Campos of Ayala Theaters management

"Never accept an food or the blessings will not come pouring." Papa Celso says the same. Celso never deliberate every weekend as if there is some sort of Boxy, something to the detriment of the family's budget. He incessant prayers every morning and night (which I sometimes happen to overhear because prays aloud) are never about him but always directed at the well-being of his family.—Amy Love of QC

To be generous. I remember the time when an old man came to my dad's office and asked for money. When he got to his wallet was only P500 and he gave it away. I asked him to learn something for himself, and he just told me, "God will return it a hundred fold." Till now, a lot of needy people come to him and he never lets them go empty-handed. I myself am getting used to sharing whatever little I have, because I have learned to do so from Dad.—Elsa Rosalinda Bigcas of Empower City

My father taught us to work hard and be generous. I learned about also how meaning of integrity, corruption, his high honesty, giving one's best in everything we do, being humble and, most important, loving the Lord to no exception. —Pilar Valenzuela, daughter of the late Philippine President Ramon Magsaysay

To be fruitful and to contribute in the society's well being. My dad raised us, three kids, and sent us to excellent private schools. On top of that, my parents sent three cousins who are now in med and nursing, their siblings to school. My parents gave free seminars on agriculture, poultry and livestock management in Ubidon, Quezon. They continue to provide support in those who want to put up poultry businesses. We are not rich, and at the rate that my dad is helping others, we will never be rich. But they have touched a lot of lives and an unseen of money can ever match that. —Lyndon Medenilla Ennis of Kandalapyong City

To face life's battles. No matter how many times I fall, I won't be afraid because I know my dad will always be there to help me stand up again and face the battle again. He was there to help me rebuild my life and pick up the broken pieces of my life, and I know he will always be there for me.—Amy Flor Merlin of QC

To value education. My father hailed from the small town of Buenavista in Aklan, the fourth of 11 children. After high school, he went to Manila to try his luck. He pursued law while working as a janitor at AILQS, and passed the bar after graduation. My father made a game out of learning. I remember memorizing factoid, starting from the sound of each letter, then combining the letters to form syllables and combining the syllables to form words. I was able to read at the age of three. The love for learning and the knowledge that lack of money is not a hindrance to success are the best legacy from my father. —Ruth B. David of Morales

My father has taught me to live with integrity, to treat people with respect, and to love the country of my birth. He has done this by example...he will not give before even when they are afflicted. He will value time to talk to wisdom seeker, and he will not leave the Philippines, even if all his family is already in the US and many of our friends have migrated there. —Mari-An C. Santos of Bonifacio, Manila

I am athletic because he introduced me to running, bending, and stretch. I learned to love math because he spent nights tutoring me when I was in Grade 3. I successfully passed the board exams because his "tips" and memory drills made me more assured and confident. In sports, he would say, "Have a killer instinct." In math, he would say "Practice solving problems religiously." In any event, he would remind me, "Make an accurate the brake that need more concentration." More importantly,

To give love by knowledge as it is a source of happiness, and the other one got, his most precious asset people who I encounter may always be very young. —Reinard Bacod Sotelo of Bonifacio, Manila Caridad

The most important thing my dad has taught me is that when one falls down, he will get right back up. —Raissa Hernandez, fashion student/designer, daughter of Lucio Paul Hernandez

my father instilled in me discipline, hard work, and love for my faith. —Agatha Ellen Salamanca Valenzuela of Davao City

Not to be a weasel. If there was one thing that irritated my father, it would be weaseliness. Saying stealth, he would remind us to finish our plates. He only believed that whatever we wanted was deserved from our "gratitude" of blessings and goodies from above. He was a lawyer and one of our friends hardly entertained him "Attorney Ulbo." "Hindi sir, atorni po!" was his mantra. —Sue Gaerlan Lapus of Ayala Alabang

We remember when we were kids and we were confused about math and our father would come up with the solution!... Dad said he would teach us not only the things that were good to know, but the things that we had to know, or people above Me. He said that God in everything we do, we should put God first. He told us that having true friends is better than having millions of money. That good manners and right conduct are taught in school but learned at home. That education is the best gift parents could give their children. And that we could have all the time in the world for other things but only after we finish school. —Katrina Montillano Cornejo, Karen Anne Montillano Cornejo of Sparda, California

My dad was a preterm of Caregiver. He did not have much but he was very giving. When I was a kid and I asked him for my shoes, he reached out for some coins from his pocket and said: "Go you see my old worn-out shoes? I bought this pair cheap from the banglers as I could save up to provide for your needs." It was difficult to send us all to school at the same time—three daughters to college in Manila and a son to a private high school in our province—but he did it. June 2004, I went home for a week. When it was time to go back to Manila, my parents brought me to the bus station to send me off. I noticed how my father's old glasses were falling off and how bunny he looked! I know then what to give him for Father's Day. But two weeks later, I was back home again because he was killed after his car was hit by an overspeeding jeepney driven by a drunk driver. As they closed the casket, I saw his worn-out pair of eyeglasses by his side. My tears poured like a storm.—Ridzon Mercado-Ramores of Bambakong City

To genuinely help other people and to believe in the power of prayer, because nothing is impossible with God. My Dad inspired us to have grace under pressure, and thus achieve what we want if we put utmost sincerity to it.—Rian Pangandian

To live a man for God. The greatest gift my father handed me is his personal relationship with God, manifested through examples as a man for others, biased for the poor and the marginalized. He went to daily morning Mass for many years, and broke bread with beggars in our family dining table from time to time. He was not a man of success, but a man of value.—He del Flores Jr. of Better Living, Bonifacio City

Cartier's Love Day and Jarlath Lynch's adieu

MUST-HAVE BRACELET. The new Love bracelet in yellow gold and yellow gold screwdriver, and the screwdriver pendant in yellow gold by Cartier

ON FATHER'S DAY—WHEN my editor asked me to write about "the best piece of advice my father gave me," my mind went all blank.

I am one of those individuals who had a hard time communicating with their dad. Ten years ago he was confined in the hospital again after suffering a stroke. He chose to go home to join the both of us. Seeing my dad in the hospital was an uncomfortable feeling since he had always been energetic and athletic.

He asked me about work, I asked him about his. Then I asked him if he was happy. There was silence. He said he was. And all we could I had to go since he needed to rest. I felt feeling good. I know, despite the fact that not a lot of words were said, that there was love, love and love there.

My dad is much better now and has even resumed playing basketball. I've realized that in life things are the way they are for a purpose, and change may come in small steps, but they do come.

Happy Father's Day, Dad.

Cartier's Love Day More than 30 years ago, Cartier launched its Love Bracelet. The iconic piece bracelet, so, graced with 12 screws which had to be bolted with a screwdriver, has achieved legendary Hollywood status like Richard Burton and Elizabeth Taylor, Cary Grant and Oyan Cannon. Today it can be seen on Katie Holmes and Mary-J. Blige.

For the first time in its illustrious history Cartier recently launched the new Love bracelet and the new Love charity bracelet at the Nasdaq in New York City. Dr. head Jr. the proceedings were

T'nT Trends & Trendings

Anton San Diego

Cartier CEO Frederic de Narp along with celebrities Salma Hayek, Scarlett Johansson and Sarah Jessica Parker.

Too generous of sales for the day went to charity. A first for a luxury brand to open on the Sunday, the launch coincided with the declaration of the city Mayor Michael Bloomberg, of June 8 as Cartier Love day.

Hotel news. TNT heard that the Manila Peninsula Hotel will undergo a much needed renovation, which has its elements ecstatic.

TOP OF THE LIST. Nike 360 iPod touch up to produce running shoes that can sing!

The renovation will start in July and some areas like its famed lobby will be done by November this if you caught Thor outgoing's "Best of Asia" issue. the Peninsula was highlighted for best hotel—the hotels.

Over at the Makati Shangri-La, the hotel is also going through a major revamp in its personnel. Its general manager, the amiable, hard-working and dynamic Jarlath Lynch, is leaving for another Shangri-La property. In his three years with the hotel, Lynch did a terrific job at GM. from supervising the major renovations (think Pool, Jungle, Shang Palace, rooms, etc.) to increasing occupancy and making Makati Shang the top hotel in the Philippines.

So is leaving at the end of the month and will be moving to Malaysia Shangri-La Hotel. Jarlath has made a lot of friends in the city and he will definitely be missed. To Jarlath, wishing you success in your next post. You are "straight the best!"

Must-have. Month gadgets. Just when I am settling into my Apple I-Book, along comes a new gizmo like book that's not only five times faster, but also comes with a built-in camera for video-conferencing and other features. This item we must have for the next month!

Now, here's for you children and fun-day warriors out there. Nike and iPod have collaborated to come up with none other than (drumroll, please) Nike iPod.

Now, all Nike plus shoes have a special compartment under the insole to hold the iPod Nano. You can configure the iPod to give you pertinent information like how many kilometers you've traveled, which can then be uploaded to a Nike website for analysis. It can also tell you your heart beat rate, update sports results and remind you to stop playing "Eye of the Tiger" for the 10th time.

E-mail anton.ddg@skyinker.com or antondd@global.net

MVP FRIENDSHIPMAKE. Uber businessman Manny Pangilinan with former President Corazon Aquino during First Pacific Corp.'s 25th year grand bash in Hong Kong, which I was privileged to attend

DADDY Eric and Jethro enjoy fun-filled activities and free services at Dad's Incredible, a Father's Day treat at Robinson's Malls.

Fun games for Dad at the mall

DADS ARE INVITED TO JOIN FUN-filled games and activities at participating Robinsons Malls on June 18.

Robinsons Galleria, Robinsons Place Manila, Robinsons Place Novaliches, Robinsons Metro East, Robinsons Place Lipa and Robinsons Place Dumaguete will hold the Hand Ball Ball Challenge, a basketball shoot-out contest open to all fathers and their kids. Contestants will be given time to shoot as many balls as they can and the top two pairs with the highest score wins.

Free Day on Father's Day—a game show with shoulder and waist gestures, also for fathers and kids—will take place in Robinsons Place Ilocos, Robinsons Place Dumaguete, Robinsons Place Iloilo, Robinsons Townmall Las Piñas and Robinsons Place Angeles. Gift certificates and gift packs are up for grabs.

These two games are open to all fathers with their kids 12 years old and below. Only the first 25 pairs to register at the information counters of participating malls. June 7-14 will be allowed to join.

Fathers can also enjoy free services such as hair trim, massage, blood pressure checkup, bone checkup, eye checkup, dental checkup and photo souvenir upon registration at the Activity Area of participating Robinsons Malls on Father's Day, June 18.

Call 6836137 or 6838100 loc. 788 or 782.

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Sunday LIFESTYLE Travel

Tiny Guam looms large

UEA Visitors aren't all tourists. Some have other interests, developed for the family

By Alec V. Vergara

SINCE GUAM POSITIONED itself as a family destination in the early '90s, it has become quite common for tour guides like Toni Ramirez to deal with the most seemingly inane questions from inquisitive tourists, particularly Japanese kids.

One question she keeps encountering is how Guam is able to keep the water off its golden sand beaches, particularly along the upscale Tumon Bay strip, so pristine and gemstone blue. Do they have to constantly dye the ocean to get that particular color?

Rather than feel upbeat, the tourist saves, who also answers email readers hungry, has been more than happy to answer such queries. If anything, these students only prove how unique his home is in the eyes of tourists, most of whom hail from big cities such as Tokyo, Fukuoka and Nagoya.

Of the 1,107,587 tourists (seven times as big as the territory's current population of 160,000) who visited Guam last year, 85 percent were Japanese. The market is that big and created so Guam that Continental Airlines flies to nine Japanese cities daily.

Like the Philippines, Japan is a little over three hours away by plane from Guam. Thus, it's no uncommon for the territory's citizens to fly regularly to the Philippines for routine to complicated medical checkups.

The Guam government has unveiled Isabel Leon's hospital, Makati Medical Center and Asian Hospital to attend to the medical needs of its tourist-wary.

Not a few visitors also go to Guam, a US territory and the largest and perhaps most famous island in the Micronesia group that also includes Palau, Yonao and Saipan, to dive, play golf, watch dolphins, stargaze or simply take in the fresh air—one of the few "homemade" stuff in an island that depends almost exclusively on imported goods.

"What, you're from a big city like Tokyo," says Ramirez, "sure, perhaps, are something you don't see as brilliantly as you do in Guam. These are things you don't take for granted when you visit the island."

Shopping options

Shopaholic Filipinos need not worry as Guam also offers plenty of shopping opportunities.

Apart from several luxury stores selling signature brands along Phoenix Island and Tumon Bend, there are two major shopping centers on the island: Guam Premium Outlets, DFS Galleria, K-Mart, Micronesia Mall and Agaña Mall.

The last two establishments are owned by Filipino tycoons Lucio Tan and Henry Sy, respectively.

Although GPS is small compared to its counterparts in the mainland, it boasts of such popular brands and discount staples as Ross, Payless Shoe Source, Levi's, Guess, BCBG, Nine West and Nike, among others.

K-Mart, reportedly the biggest of its kind in the entire US (excluding Big K-Mart), is open 24 hours and within walking distance from a number of hotels on Tumon Bay.

Hotel rates, by the way, run an average of $400 per night. Manila-based travel agents offer typical tour packages that include airfare and hotel accommodations ranging from $550 to $800 per person.

PLEASURE Island's restaurant and amusement row

DFS Galleria, one of the island's major shopping options

Those with the means to go to the US, but don't have the time or energy to travel 13-15 hours may find Guam, "where America's day begins," as an attractive alternative

Join the Marian Pilgrimage Tour (World Meeting of Families) with Bishop Angel Hobayan D.D. and Experience The Solemn Eucharistic Mass with our Holy Father Pope Benedict XVI on July 6 to 21, 2006

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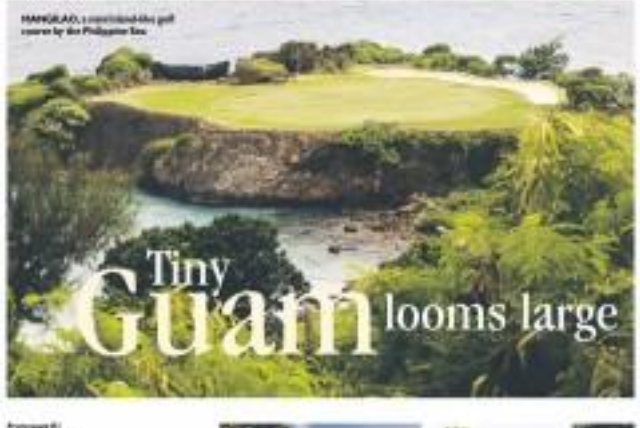


Tiny Guam looms large

THE APOLINARIO Mabini marker is a permanent reminder that the Sublime Paralytic was once exiled in Guam.

Filipinos need not worry, as Guam offers plenty of shopping options

ARMANDARI of Guam's Spanish-colonial past are very much evident in these two outdoor attractions that date back hundreds of years ago.

Small Wahiki

When Josh Evans opened its doors to tourists in 1967, the tawdry-oriented mostly-honeymooners and working-class locavore travelers. It remains a favorite overseas wedding venue among Japanese couples wishing to tie the knot abroad.

In fact, it has become de rigueur for upscale hotels living Tattoo Bay such as the Hilton, Fiesta Resort, Hyatt and Pacific Island Club, among others, to have at least one wedding chapel by the shore. The trend in Guam's version of Waikiki, albeit smaller in scale.

"We came strange reasons," says Ramirez with a chuckle, "most Japanese want a Cinderella interview to marry here."

On they can go to Two Lovers' Point, Guam's famous monument to undying love, and seal their love here.

Legend says a pair of star-crossed Chamorro (the island's native inhabitants) lovers jumped off the 376 feet cliff when their love was denied by the girl's parents, who wanted to marry her off to a Spanish officer.

Modern-day lovers have yet to take such a drastic step, but they do have romantic. A concrete viewing deck with metal railings atop the cliff is now festooned with dozens upon dozens of padlocks.

Apart from offering visitors with a panoramic view of the Philippine Sea, the deck at Two Lovers' Point has become a silent witness to countless Japanese lovers as they pledge their undying love.

"A pair of lovers usually secures a padlock in place after making a promise to love only each other," says Ramirez. "They then throw the key into the sea."

Second-biggest group

The Japanese may have turned the island into a tropical playground, but ties that bind Guam and the Philippines date back much earlier. In fact, Filipinos comprise approximately 26 percent (135,000) of Guam's population, making them the second biggest ethnic group next to Chamorros.

It's like you never left home, as Filipinos can be seen (and heard) everywhere, working mostly as managers, hotel staff, restaurant crew and dependitionos store clerks.

Filipinos may be a big ethnic group in Guam but, as opposed, they still seem a bit disappointed. This hasn't escaped the observant Ramirez, who probably knows more about the Philippines than the average Filipino does.

"Filipinos are Father divided into ethnic lines," he says, with a smile. "There are at least 80 Filipino associations in Guam representing this or that province."

Actually, the influx of Filipinos began much earlier when the American colonial government exiled 34 countrymen led by Apolinario Mabini to Guam during the Philippine revolt against America. While Mabini and most of his co-accused returned to the Philippines after serving their sentences, four Filipinos chose to stay behind.

"They intermarried with the locals and became the forefathers of several prominent people in Guam," says Ramirez. "One of their descendants became Guam's first archbishop."

As for Mabini, the brilliant Paralytic is widely known among academics and historians in Guam. In fact, the replica of Guam's home erected a marker to commemorate his stay on the island.

Just like the Philippines, Guam was under Spanish colonial rule for more than 300 years. Both colonies were ruled by Spain to the US after the former was defeated during the Spanish-American War.

"Spain ruled both its home colonies the Mexico," says Ramirez. "But when Mexico had gained its independence, Spain began to rule Guam from the Philippines."

Their ties too continued under the American colonial government ruled. Both countries were ruled by governors-general appointed by the US president. Both countries were also occupied by Japan during World War II.

Attractive alternative

Close to 8,000 Filipinos traveled to Guam last year as tourists. In its desire to introduce the destination to more Filipinos, the Guam Visitors Bureau in Manila is aggressively promoting Guam to wealthy Filipinos with US tourist visas.

Because of visa requirements, Guam can't compete directly with such popular destinations as Thailand, Singapore and Hong Kong in luring Filipinos.

"Those with the means to go to the US, but don't have the time or energy to travel 13-15 hours may find Guam, "where America's day begins," an attractive alternative.

And because of Guam's size (almost as big as Singapore's, it's speedy takes tourists the minutes or less to go from one point of the island to another. What's more, traffic jams don't exist on the island. Not a few visitors, especially weekend tourists, welcome this, as it enables them to cover more ground in less time.

Some Japanese, in fact, are opting to stay in self-contained resorts such as the Leo Palace, which has its own golf course, soccer field and beachfront park, to make the most out of their stay.

"Guam is probably not for everybody," Ramirez concedes. "But those with the means to go here on flights across find our here clean, beautiful and peaceful the island is." There's no question about this.

Continental Airlines has several daily flights to Guam. For inquiries, call Continental at 8158700 (Manila) and 2535700 (Cebu City) or the Guam Visitors Bureau at 7377755.

E-mail the author at ...@philstar.com.ph

FILIPINO travel agents and journalists take a break during a familiarization tour of the island. Manila-based travel agents offer tour packages to Guam ranging from $350 to $400 per person.

VIEWING deck at Two Lovers' Point has been a silent witness to modern-day sweethearts' undying love. Apart from sealing their love with a kiss, they seal it with padlocks (inset).

TravelBriefs

Father's Day package

THE LEGENDS VILLAS (LEGENDS) Day with a special family rate of only P9,000 net per night for an overnight accommodation for two adults and a maximum of two children aged 7 years old and below. The family package includes an overnight stay in a Superior Room, free use of the swimming pool and free meal rate.

The package also includes 20 percent off massage, manicure, pedicure and foot spa services; 20 percent off Business Center services; 10 percent off laundry services and 10 percent off food and beverages for a real family treat.

The special package is available until June 30. The Legend Villas is at Phoenix corner Rainbow Streets, Mandaluyong City. For more reservations and inquiries, call Legend Hotels International Corporation. Call 7257700 to 04 or 6388516 to 18 (loc), or e-mail reservations@legendsvillas.com.ph or visit www.legendshotels.com.ph.

Special hotel treats for dad

Mandarin Oriental offers special room packages for local residents. Room rates start at P6,500 for an overnight stay for two persons in a Superior room. Inclusive of Pioneer Day Breakfast and a 15 percent discount for the first Oriental Spa massage. You can treat dad on a one-night stay with a bottle of wine for free. For celebrations of two nights, dad gets a 60 minute Spa session or room upgrade. Or you can enjoy two days of P5,000 – Shopping Boom. The Father's Day package is valid all weekends of June. Call 7283888 local 2821 or 2814.

Baguio's Shangri-La

Every June 16, the top mountain resort commonly calls itself the "Shangri-La in Baguio." It has various routes to choose from: the Golf Course, which has a spectacular view of the fairways; the Commander's Suites, which is run owned by Freddy Limsiaco Santos, Bachrach Estates, a prominent landscape; and the Country Estates, which has cuisine built along country designs. Call 63(74)9300-9999, or e-mail slbm@shangrila.com.ph/slbm.com or @mandalbuangrila.com.

Exclusive venue

Discovery Suites offers special World Cup room packages, P3,700+ for a Junior Suite. 998 Mini Cup in Germany is broadcast live until July 16 at the Serendipity Lounge. DSF of Discovery Suites. Call 9108000.

Best low-cost airline

In the recent Skytrax Airlines of the Year survey, a worldwide independent passenger study conducted annually by Skytrax and involving interviews with over 13 million passengers in more than 85 different nationalities, Jetstar Asia came in first, as the Best Low-cost Airline 2006 for both the Asia and Southeast Asia categories.

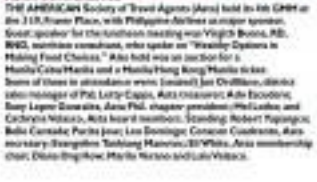
Jetstar Asia is a Singapore-based airline that currently flies to multiple destinations within five countries in Singapore. The regional network includes India (Bangalore), Cambodia (Siem Reap, Phnom Penh), Thailand (Bangkok, Phuket), Hong Kong, Philippines (Manila), Myanmar (Yangon) and Taiwan (Taipei). It is a majority Singapore-owned company, with a significant Qantas shareholding, ensuring the highest standards of operational excellence and safety standards while delivering great value to customers.

Beauty and wellness tour

On July 22, take a break and join the Inner Be Tours' landmarks' Beauty and Wellness Tour. The day-long tour will provide participants with massage techniques, organic cuisine, and spa and massage treatments. Included in this year's itinerary is Evelyn's Garden and Restaurant, first stop is a wellness center of Nurse Woman Evelyn Gonzales Alcantara, a delightful retreat run by the Benedictine sisters of St. Scholastica's College.

A wellness expert will talk on Oriental healing and Shiatsu, a Japan-originating exercise with tremendous health benefits.

The tour then goes to Bantoc Tropical Spa for the signature activity, a nourishing spa treatment. Capping the day is a gourmet meal of pasta and salad. The signature dish of Bianca's Deli Cafe is at 63 (42) 442-6888 ext 13 or text 0919-42-84887. Slots are limited.



AETA CONFERENCE

THE AMERICAN Society of Travel Agents (Asta) held its 6th GMM at the 319, Manor Place, with Philippine Airlines as major sponsor. Guest speaker for the luncheon meeting was Virgilio Bueno, PAL MKG, nutrition consultant, who spoke on "Healthy Options in Making Food Choices." Also held was an auction for a Manila-Cebu-Manila and a Manila-Hong Kong-Manila ticket. Some of those in attendance were (seated) Jan Chrisbon, Jaleska Lobo; manager of PAL Lotte Cupin, Asta president; Ade Escudero; Susy Lopez Gonzales, Asta Phil. chapter president; Mel Lobo and Cachuyo Velasco, Asta board members. Standing: Robert Pajaganas; Bella Carmeka; Portia Jose; Lea Domingo; Corazon Cuadrante, Asta secretary-treasurer Tashiang Mamaran; Bill White, Asta membership chair; Diana Ong; Ana Maria Nerona and Lulu Velasco.

A welcome unsolicited advice

THE HOT PRICE OF ADVICE MY FRIEND gave me:

I can see what I have become (good or bad) because I always remember when my father told his whole 3 was very young and so impressionable. He believe never to be intimidated by anybody, most especially the wealthy. He said in such unlawful metaphor "Ang sirot mum ay lasing bobo lang ng sun mo." ("Your fart is just as bad as others.) Another favorite saying of his was "You can be anything you want, when growing Upon you. God is not asking you to make a tomato."

This letter was in response to our column on April 11, titled "Will love is trapped in a writer's body?" sent by "Girl Lost." The feedback is not well-written: to be left to oblivion. Meanwhile writers, who are still in limbo, can profit from a veritable goldmine of information from "Anonymous"....EM

Dear Emily,

This is in response to a letter sent... a few months back. You failed to answer one of the letter writer's most important questions: "Which companies should I apply to for this type of work, writing?" I hope you will send my message to her.

Also, the writer in the response would... since 1992. Hence, I know there are a lot of possibilities for someone writers like her. If you want to be a writer, it does not mean that your only option is to write fiction. You can do fiction while maintaining a full-time, secure job as a writer, as well. How?

The options are plenty. Big companies, including multinationals, have a separate communications or public relations or marketing communications department. The one you'd choose as a writer or a PR assistant/marketing communication assistant, etc., which also involves writing.

The job may involve any or all of the following tasks: producing the company newsletter, press releases/photos, copies/print ads and other PR or marketing material, speeches for executives, annual reports, as well as memos and business correspondence.

Girl Lost may also work in a publishing company and there are many of them. Notice the proliferation of magazines in the market today? How can be a feature writer or an editorial assistant, full-time. That would be exciting since she may be attending social events to write about them, interview famous people and celebrities and perform other kinds of field-work as well.

Included here are textbook publishing firms and those that publish supplementary materials for schools such as the encyclopedia. I'm sure our children know for such subject. She can write for or edit them, as well.

There are also the numerous daily newspapers. She can work as a news reporter, feature's writer, sports writer, I.T. (information technology) writer. If she thinks she lacks the experience, she can start her writing career as a proofreader and there are the advertising agencies. She can apply as a copywriter.

Plus the PR companies that produce press releases for their clients. Notice the articles in publications about products endorsed by famous people? That's exciting, too, because, again, she'll be interviewing famous people, attend corporate events such as product launchings, demonstrations, launch openings, fashion shows, etc.

Not to forget outsourcing companies. Outsourcing is the "in" thing now. There are outsourcing companies that hire writers on a full-time basis. There job is to write marketing materials for their American clients.

She can go political, too. Girl Lost could try to join the staff of a high-ranking politician to make media publicist.

And don't forget, a writing job often goes hand in hand with an editing job. I mean, she can also apply as editor or assistant editor.

So you see, the possibilities are many. I have selected 3 quick because I'm a writer myself. I've been in publishing, corporate communications since the a real estate firm and a top notch insurance firm), in outsourcing (I wrote marketing materials for a well-known lawyer's software developer), and in PR. (wow).

I'm currently working for one of the leading PR agencies in the country, writing for some of the top multinational banks and direct selling corporations in the world.

Like her, I didn't land a writing job right after graduation. But writing was in my veins. I never quit looking for a writing job, until I got my break in 1992. That's how I've been looking back for me since. And yes, I'm very happy that I am doing what I'm doing right now. —Anonymous

E-mail the author at emanvela@inquirer.com.ph. Subject: Lifestyle, or send your letter to Inquirer Jaimeville. Manila to Ateneo Papers, 9300 Makati Ave., Makati City, Monday-Friday, or dial 896-3454/3458.

EMILY'S POST

Emily A. Manvela

If you want to be a writer, it does not mean that your only option is to write fiction

St. Charbel . . .

From page B4

ber of the Lebanese Maronite Order in 1853, and was ordained priest in 1859. In 1875, he began to live a hermit, dedicating his life to prayer, fasting and manual labor, which ended 23 years later with his death at the age of 78 on Dec. 24, 1898. He was beatified by Pope Paul VI on Dec. 5, 1965 and canonized on Oct. 9, 1977.

The canonization of a Lebanese monk is undeniably a historic event and a new expression of the ecumenical movement in the Church.

St. Charbel is the heir to an Oriental spirituality of privilege rich in variety and harmony, which has flourished in Lebanon throughout the centuries. He is a true witness to the nobility of hidden virtues and to the triumph of the spirit.

Pasay-sapit festival

Nuevo Vizcaya's Agricultural Terminal celebrates "Pasay-sapit" festival today at Barangay Bitnagan North in Bambang, Nueva Vizcaya.

A grand rodeo was recently held by the Kabayanya tribe in connection with the festival. A rodeo is a harvest and thanksgiving ritual featuring a high point and members of the tribe.

Nueva Vizcaya produces high-grade vegetables and fruits that are sold in Manila and Baguio. It is the home of pristine acreage and other virgin fruits, as well as tourist attractions like the Cagayan Caves and the longest zoo-cruise highway in the St.

Sacred Heart feast day

The feast day of the Sacred Heart, which falls on the Friday after Corpus Christi, is set on June 25 this year. The blessed shrine of the Sacred Heart has invited Cardinal Rosales to officiate the consecration of Mass on June 25 at 6 p.m. Bishop Teodoro Bacani will say the Mass at 12:15 p.m.

There will be Masses starting 6 a.m. and every hour and a half after or 10 a.m. and from 1:30 7:30 p.m. Msgr. Clito Ignacio is the Rector of the shrine.

Sandoli Cagayans festival

Cagayan Valley celebrates its 402nd anniversary as a province with the "Sandoli Cagayano" festival on June 24-29. Sandoli started as a street dance to Flor town in honor of Our Lady of Pilar, Our Refuge Lass will lead the celebration, which is also called "Ngapa nac Cagayan" (Cagayan Day).

Marian seminar

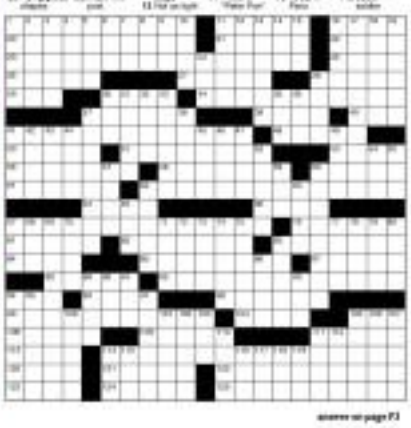
The Missionaries of Mary will conduct a one-day Marian seminar on June 21, 7 a.m.-5 p.m. at 129 9th St., New Manila. The theme is "Mary, our Mother, and the Montfort Missionaries." Please call St. Luc Umbel or Chrisy at 7438729 or 2404586.

Radio program

The Society of St. Sulpicius is broadcasting a radio program on St. Expedit on June 20 at 7:30 p.m. over Radio Veritas and every third Tuesday thereafter.

SUNDAY CROSSWORD

PREMIER CROSSWORD/ By Frank A. Longo — FOR DADDY



answers on page P3

Regular blood sugar testing is key to your diabetes control

Kit Php 1395

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Accu-Chek Advantage's advanced technology allows you to better manage your diabetes by allowing you to save up to 480 results with time and date for analysis. It stores 7-, 14-and 30-day averages. These features are not found in certain low-cost products.

You can rely on the proven quality of Accu-Chek Advantage Blood Glucose Monitoring system to live life. The way you want. For more information, talk to your diabetologist, e-mail us a note at Diagnostics.Philippines@Roche.com, or call our customer care 811-8000.

ACCU-CHEK

St. Charbel closely related to Abraham family of Tuguegarao

PURELY PERSONAL

Josephine Barcelo

ST. CHARBEL, A LEBANESE Maronite monk (1828-1898), is a close relation of the Abraham family of Tuguegarao, Cagayan. Batrous Abraham Helou, who retired for good in Tuguegarao and married Josefina Tuppil Reyes on Aug. 13, 1944, was a first cousin of St. Charbel, whose mother Brigitte was the sister of Hanna, the mother of Batrous.

Taking the name Pedro Abraham, he named his second daughter Hanna after his mother. Hanna became Mrs. Edmundo Gozar, who passed away in 1982 from a debilitating brain disease.

Batrous was only in his 20s when he traveled with other Yakhro to Australia, which welcomed the immigration of Catholic Christians. Batrous was a Maronite Catholic. On the way to Australia, the group landed in the Philippines, and Batrous liked the country instantly. He found that business was good, the wages, so fine, and decided to stay.

I heard one street St. Charbel when Joe Abraham, a friend from way back, told me he was related to the saint. This came to me as surprise because it meant Joe's brother, Pedro "Eddie" Abraham, another friend, would be a nephew as well.

Joe and Eddie told me more about their father, whose name "Batrous" means "Saint" in Aramaic or Arabic. Thus, he adopted the name Pedro, Hispanic for Peter. When he became a Filipino citizen, he chose the name Pedro Abraham.

Don Pedro Abraham was a pioneering entrepreneur who put up several businesses in Tuguegarao. When he passed away on June 22, 1997, his wife "Sha Ming" handled the businesses single-handedly while bringing up seven children by herself.

Three children are Maria Victoria, now a lawyer married to lawyer Antonio Siegfredo, Pedro "Nito," a UP professor; Joseph, who is a managing partner of Abraham Realty Company and married to Aida Bote Ramirez, who married Emerson de Leon, Wilmarie or Wino, who is a city councilor and lawyer married to Lita Ilarde; Jamila, a successful entrepreneur married to Dev Hemrajani of the abrahamsburger Shoppersville; and Bonnie Abraham, a medical doctor and married to Dr. Regino Pulido.

Eden told me that the Abraham family in Tuguegarao is one Filipino family with direct kinship to an authentic Roman Catholic saint. As of today, there are 39 descendants of the Pedro Amelian Abraham family; 23 are related by blood, including 14 grandchildren, six great grandchildren and one on the way; and 11 by marriage.

The Abraham family is grateful to archbishop Diosdado Talamayan, who in 1999 interceded in their behalf with the Philippine Embassy in Lebanon to reconnect the Abraham family in the Philippines with their kinfolk in Lebanon.

Since 1999, six Abrahams have visited Lebanon and one became from Lebanese has visited the Philippines.

"Fakhr" in Arabic means "honorable and dignified." It aptly describes four-decade Abraham, who was known for his honesty and integrity to doing business.

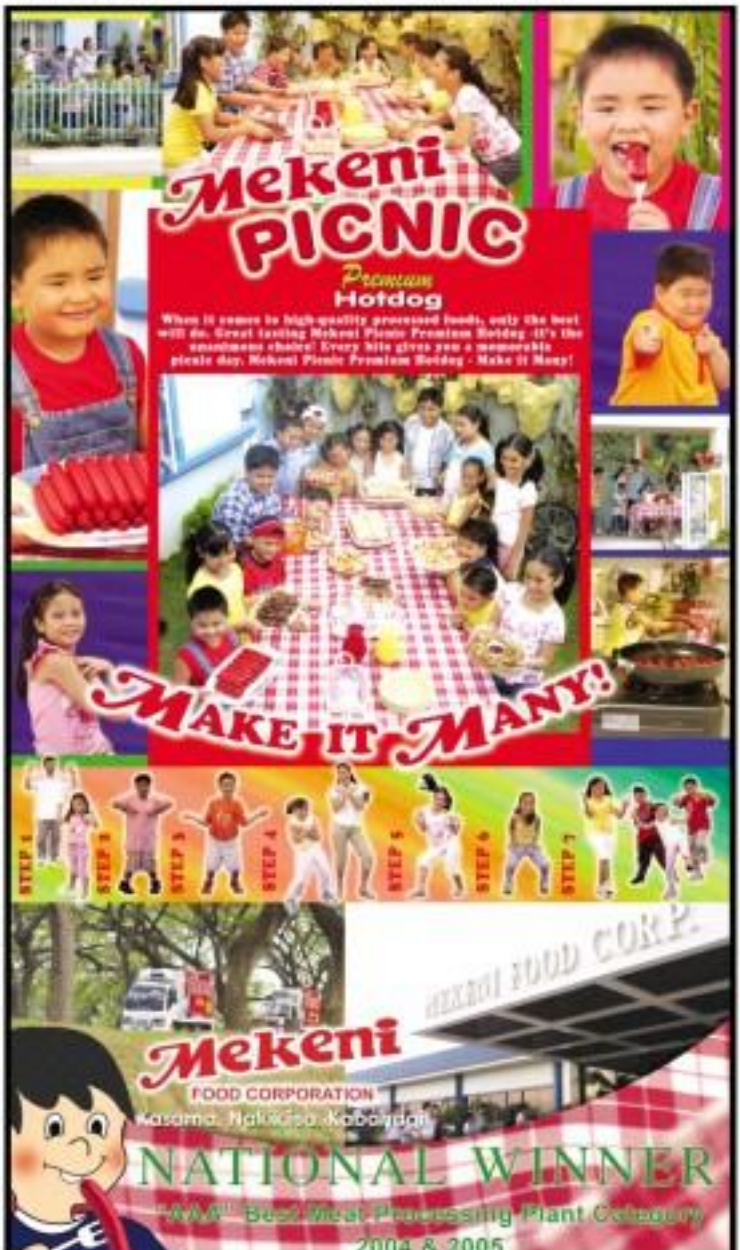
Ah Ming, at 93, still holding her family together since she became a widow at age 42, is still sharp, with all her wits about her. She is still consulted in family matters.

Those who want complete prayers to St. Charbel can write me. Please enclose a self-addressed stamped envelope for mailing.

Who is St. Charbel?

St. Charbel Makhlouf, born in 1828 at Beqa' Kafra in Lebanon, became a monk of the Lebanese Maronite Order of St. Maron. He lived as a hermit for 23 years before his death on Christmas Eve 1898. Many miracles have been attributed to him since his death. He was canonized a saint by Pope Paul VI in 1977.

DON Pedro Abraham, first cousin of St. Charbel, Lebanese monk



THE RE-BIRTH OF SUCCESS

HOTDOGS and KIDS ... PUT 'EM TOGETHER!

Ask any child what he visualizes when you mention HOTDOGS and he will say, "Birthday parties, home or picnics!" No doubt this scrumptious goodie is a kid's all time favorite comfort food.

Out in the market today is a new kind of hotdog that is fortified with Vitamin A and has a more delectable taste! Presenting tasty alongside premium nutrition – what more can kids and moms ask for?

Introducing THE MEKENI PREMIUM PICNIC HOTDOG!

Recently handed by the MEKENI FOOD Corporation (MFC), a multi-awarded company and two-time National Winner for Best Meat Processing Plant (2004 and 2005), the Mekeni Picnic Hotdog is not just your ordinary hotdog. It belongs to a line of high-quality meat products produced using state of the art technology. The company's industrial unit in Pasay, Paranaque stands out as a Class "AAA" meat processing plant, one of the very few factories awarded such distinction. Food safety and good manufacturing practices are strictly observed in every stage of production to ensure superb quality products.

Prior to the hotdog's May 31, 2006 public debut, MFC conducted a nationwide survey and Focused Group Discussions to test the public's reaction to their new product. You've guessed it right... an avalanche of Mekenenians, *Pabiba ang Lasa and Masarap* style rooting images...sounded. Isabel taste buds will find refreshing flavor notes with this new hotdog contender.

Just what is the secret behind the success and "good taste" of the MEKENI FOOD CORPORATION?

Let MFC patriarch FELIX GARCIA say it. "The success of a business is just a reflection of the kind of family that runs it". Rising from the ashes of the tragic Pinatubo event, the company re-emerged to the success that it is today by sheer determination, faith and a compassion for their fellowmen. The Philippines takes pride in this company whose multi-million job-creating achievements help invigorate the economic scene.

Surely a company that cares for the larger community can only create products with the same love and concern... products meeting patronage and respect.

So next time you go a-marketing... a word of advice ... grab up the MEKENI PICNIC HOTDOG brand ...and don't forget...MAKE IT MANY!!

MEKENI'VE LAUNCH

The New Superhotdog

Chantilloy L.O. Ala, Grace Garcia, Mr. Emilio L. Garcia, VP Sales & Marketing Mrs. Rosalinda Garcia, Mr. Felix L. Garcia, VP for Finance & Administration, Mr. Adrian J. Garcia, VP for Physical Distribution & Engineering, Mrs. Carmelita Garcia, Ms. Frankie L. Garcia, President, Mrs. Susana Gozar, Ms. Maryann Adrea Isaacs, and Mr. Gene Garcia (Second) Rhonda "Sexing Pilo" M. Sotto, Brandex, Mekeni Food Corporation and Mrs. Ria Avila "Sunset Shilling" L. Sison with Architect Frans Barbada.

Sunday LIFESTYLE

Milestones

We welcome announcements of weddings and engagements. Submit names of engaged couple, names of parents, date and place of wedding, and gown designer along with a photo of the couple and a sketch of the bridal gown, if any, to the Inquirer, 5/F, Rm 527/F Makati Central Post Office 1263 Makati City. E-mail to lifestyle@inquirer.com.ph. A photo of the bride and groom is required if the wedding has already taken place. Announcements will be printed depending on space availability and are on a first-come, first-served basis.

DY-DULDULAO

Geraldine Dy, daughter of Eugene and Linda Dy, will exchange vows with William Duldulao, son of Ong Tuk and Tang Suk Foan, on June 24, at Seminario de San Jose. Geraldine will wear an all-embroidered white duchess satin gown with beadwork in accent of pouch designed by Leonard Co.

ROMANTIC JUNE

Our Promo, ₱8000 for as low as ₱3,450 nett per person on twin sharing

INCLUSIONS

- Room accommodation
- Full Buffet Breakfast at La Jardin Restaurant or Spa service at Body & Face by Wonder
- Use of Residents Swimming Pool & Gym

PARTY PACKAGE for as low as ₱26,700++

City Garden Hotel Makati

CABALLES-SAMBANG

Jaclene Caballes, son of Col. Carlito B. Caballes and Lorena L. Caballes, will marry Amalia's Sambang, daughter of Engelbe M. Sambang Jr. and Mercedita M. Sambang, on June 25, at Sto. Niño Parish, Lucena, Lipa City.

DAMGOCA-GIMENA

Gerard Damgoca II, son of Fernando and Amelia Damgoca, will wed Sabbie Grace Gimena, daughter of Sylvestre and Soledad Rimena, on July 1, at Ciudad de Cabanatuan, Cabanatuan City.

AQUINO-DAN

Leandro Angelo "Bing" S. Aquino, son of Antonio and Gloria Aquino, will wed Katherine Rose S. Tan, daughter of Antonio and Minerva Tan, on July 8, at the Sacred Heart of Jesus Church, Ayala Alabang, Muntinlupa. The reception will follow at the Grand Ballroom of Intercontinental Manila. Edward Peng designed the bride's dress using 2,000 duchess satin, for a princess-cut gown accented with beaded Alençon lace and pearl beads embroidered in a rose pattern.

LASALA-DEBUT

Beatrice Thea Lasala, a freshman AB Psychology student at Ateneo de Manila University, and daughter of Noli Lasala and Irene Guevara, will celebrate her 18th birthday on July 15, at the Sofitel Philippine Plaza Manila, Pasay City.

YOGA CLASSES IN ORTIGAS CENTER

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CHOOSE OF CLASSES OR PREFERENCE TO SCHEDULE (LTD)

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Century TUNA

Culinary Meet

Cooking Competition 2006

Year 4

a Taste of Tuna and Tradition

August 12 to 13, 2006

at Market! Market!

The competition is open to all Mega Manila residents. Send in your original recipes of Classic Filipino Dishes using any Century Tuna variant as the main ingredient together with local produce, flavors and spices. Presentation should be simple yet creative.

WIN A FREE TRIP TO BANGKOK, THAILAND PLUS CASH PRIZES!

Amateur Food Enthusiast

3-member team

Pinoy Tuna Noodle/Pasta Showcase

PRIZES

Champion: ₱20,000.00 Cash
1st Runner-up: ₱10,000.00 Cash
2nd Runner-up: ₱10,000.00 Cash
3rd Runner-up: ₱7,000.00 Cash
PLUS P500.00 worth of Century Tuna and sponsor products for each participant

COMPETITION

Professional

3-member team

Tuna Iron Chef Fare Off

PRIZES

Champion: ₱20,000.00 Cash plus a 1 week Thai culinary course at The Oriental Bangkok with airfare and hotel accommodation
1st Runner-up: ₱15,000.00 Cash
2nd Runner-up: ₱10,000.00 Cash
3rd Runner-up: ₱7,000.00 Cash
PLUS P500.00 worth of Century Tuna and sponsor products for each participant

COMPETITION

HRM Students

3-member team of students & 1 adviser

Classic Tuna Meal Battle

PRIZES

Champion: ₱20,000.00 Cash for the team and another ₱20,000.00 Cash for the adviser
1st Runner-up Team: ₱15,000.00 Cash
2nd Runner-up Team: ₱10,000.00 Cash
3rd Runner-up Team: ₱7,000.00 Cash
PLUS P500.00 worth of Century Tuna and sponsor products for each team member

COMPETITION

Century Tuna

Pagsasaluhan

HTV 5-year AC Montero, Queens Crib and van Heuvo

SOULFULLY hip Surrounds

HAMILU Martinez meets a Swatch watch that is so chic

PRETTY HTV VJ Malou Evers

Let us now praise the unsung father

JOAN Bilagui shows off three new jelly in jelly watches: Metamorphosis Pruit, Black Vibrant and Pink Sea

SWAT gurs Susan Jones, Hazel Philippine Plaza's Rose Libongco and Globe's Cathy Santamaria

SNATCH grand dame Virgie Ramos (second from right) with rockstar Rolando Gastiglia, Joji Dingcong and Mateo Guidotti

EVER SUPPORTIVE classmates Pupet Gamboa, Tea Princess Christine Carlos, Claudette Cordon, Marilot Tiamzon and Jojo Dingcong, with Cathy Gabalda and Dr. Tina Cifra with our donations from Metro Estates for PEH

CLASS '81 doctors Chino Castillo, Pio Lorenzo, Ci-ci Pastel and Eileen Cuajunco check on the pre-schoolkids

KNOWLEDGE Channel Foundation head Nina Lopez-Bautista, Angela Lopez, Rags Panganiban and Gael Peluola give the gift of knowledge to a student.

BLESSING of Upper West Day Care Center with Taguig Mayor Freddie Tinga (in black) with wife Kaye and daughter Kerry, Fr. Gerard Devesa and the new girls. Assumption High School Class '81

THE LOPEZ clan building together the Eugenio Lopez Jr.- GK Village in Jaro, Iloilo

IN THIS NEW AGE OF EMPOWERED women and multi-tasking mothers, hard-working fathers rarely get credit. So-called a Hallmark-invented occasion like Father's Day comes around, we should all honor the dads who go above their daily chores to recognize.

Though fathers, in general, are not as nurturing as mothers, they are an abundant source of advice and stability. If I had to single out the best child-rearing advice from my own father, Alex Prieto, it is that kids should have a balanced foundation of work and play.

My late father is not a typical corporate businessman. His true passion is golf. He devoted equal time in perfecting his children's golf swings and making sure our study schedules were met. He believed that if children have the proper mix of all the right ingredients, they come out in life as more fulfilled and better grounded individuals.

From my Prieto side comes my artsy, quirky nature and sense of humor, reflected best in my outrageously unique style. My father, too, occasionally raises loud chirps and unusual color blind combinations.

He is my No. 1 critic regarding my outfits. Lately, my approval rating has gotten higher and he has more compliments for my ensembles. His eye for proportion and design, both in fashion and architecture, is excellent. He is a frustrated architect and loves to give practical suggestions when analyzing house plans.

Laconic and self-effacing, dads hardly get any credit for wisdom and parenting skills

MATCHING sense of humor, Tea Princess and dad Alex Prieto

Fascinating accessories

Among my many accessories, he is most fascinated by my Swatch watch collection, with their unusual colors and designs. I guess Swatch is just one of those things I cannot leave home without, along with my BMIC-Philippine Medical Society phone. Although I have a lot of Swatch watches, it is only a fraction of the 300 million Swatch watches that have been produced.

In a worldwide, simultaneous celebration, GB Case general manager Virgie Ramos made sure the Philippines was part of this global Swatch party.

By hosting a cool, no-fuss, designated movie event called "Spread the Word. Spread the Jelly."

This fast-track, fun celebration also revealed the new Swatch Jelly to Jelly product line that comes in five colorful designs—pink, blue, orange, black and white. The three code to remind guests how to wear the color.

Of course, I violated the dress code by using all the colors although my vintage Denim Guerlain gown was predominantly black and white.

As in all Swatch events, refreshing entertainment and fun activities filled the venue with vibrant colors for celebrity guests. The new Jelly to Jelly Collection was revealed by color-coordinated models, followed with the musical debut of soulfully hip singer Sarah Surnuah and the Mekaniun rock band.

With its contemporary wider face and longer strap, coupled with a great price, the Swatch Jelly to Jelly will soon be the season's must-have accessory. It is ideal for young children or still-feeling-young dads this Father's Day and is, of course, available at all Swatch and GB Case stores.

Social responsibility

Another thing I'll pass on to keep the integrity and honor of your name. He always said it is upstanding name is the only thing you can take to your grave and whatever you do will affect generations to come. My father is a very generous man and has a soft spot for helping people in need. I think I got that trait from him, too. At my Assumption High School classmates are in the cusp of preparing for our grand Silver Jubilee, we are also doing our share of socially relevant activities to walk with the community in their struggles.

With the kind support of some classmates abroad, we were able to supply children's books, toys, a TV and VHS player to Migi's Corner in the charity pediatric ward of PGH and the Upper Metro Day Care Center in Taguig. It is so heartwarming to see the smiles of kids filled with so much hope and excitement even if they are sick and impoverished. We felt united as a batch together with Migi's Corner founder Cathy Gabalda and Taguig Mayor Freddie Tinga in our pledge to continue to help even more children.

TESSA! Texas Prieto-Valdez

Gift to Bodo children

On a much higher level as the social development scale, the third generation of the Lopez family as newly launched philanthropic programs that would benefit countless of the Jaro, Iloilo City, the hometown of their great grandfather, Eugenio Lopez Sr. Four projects...feeding, housing, education and responsible parenthood...were set up in commemoration of the late Lopez's 100th birth anniversary.

Assumption 81 batch '81 is helping Operation Gift to Bodo children with their feeding program will help close to 600. Through computer intervention with Ramon Bautista, access to exclusive nutrition for malnourished children is now than 48 barangays in Jaro. ABS-CBN Foundation, Inc. has tremendously helped so many kids throughout the nation and in overseas travel. Nina Lopez, is like a big version of Mother Teresa with an equally generous heart but without the vow of chastity, of course.

The Bautistas's Housing Program will provide 50 homes, in cooperation with Liceo de Cagayan, to what will be called the Barangay Lopez Sr. GK Village on a lot donated by the Jaro Archdiocese. In essence, one Assumption batch pledged one house in the Assumption Village, also through General Ildefonso. But, you know, whether it is one or 50 kindly matters. When it comes to giving, every little bit counts.

Through Knowledge Channel Foundation, Inc., the Lopez family's Education and Training Programs will provide media-based learning and teacher training in 38 public schools. Again, on a smaller scale but no less laudable, our Sanctuario de San Antonio outdoor retreat priest, Fr. Gerard Devesa, built an elementary school in a poor community in Sorsogon and started Healing Services Foundation.

Let me end this Father's Day column with a correction. Father's Day was not at all a last-week invention to sell more cards. In the US, the first Father's Day was celebrated on June 19, 1910, thanks to the efforts of Ms Sonora Dodd to honor her father, who single-handedly raised six children. So Happy Father's Day to my Papa and to all the dads out there! *You all deserve a wonderful day!*

E-mail me at soapitnow@blogdot.com.ph.

BAHAY Bacarra head Sina Lopez, Cielo Vargas and Carey Lopez in jaro

PEH pediatrics chief resident Dr. Tina Cifra and Migi's Corner founder Cathy Gabalda

HERALDO Hilonian Foundation director Mike Lopez points trusses for the GK project

CRISPY Pata

Pinoy treats for Dad

SIZZLING Sisig

ON JUNE 16, CARAGUE, THE PREMIER SHC all you can restaurant, treats the men of the house to an extraordinary experience.

All you have to do is complete a group of eight and get your mouthwatering Crispy Pata for free. Incorporated as the house of hearty Filipino dishes, Carague lets dad choose from its sumptuous buffet that includes Sizzling Sisig, Sigang Isda ng Bicol Mara, Mixed Seafood Kare-Kare, Beef Mechado Ilocos, Indian Hargang Pata as well as the finest in Asian à la Dokse.

After a good filling meal, he can enjoy Carague's famous Tibok tibok or end dinner with his choice of sumptuous halo-halo with homemade ingredients.

Visit any Carague branches located at West Avenue (it can accommodate 2000 persons in exclusive function rooms), Glorietta 3, SM Megamall, SM North Edsa, Sta. Lucia East, Robinsons Place Manila, Robinsons Pampanga and soon to open Festival Mall Alabang.

Call 2732514 and 8939884, or 4219320 or 9120533 (catering).

A round-about seminar for developers, investors & property owners!

REAL ESTATE FINANCE & INVESTMENT ANALYSIS

July 19, 1:30-6 pm, 7th Flr, Ateneo Bus., Downtown 2, Ayala Center, Makati

Course Training (simple, but distinct, characteristics under-market leverage, its learning system, making investing decisions, investment learning, time learning methods, and of it). Visit the Course Objectives, involves knowledge of marketing, the trends, the of objectives in terms of management, cash flow analysis, earning, investment projects, investment analysis, financial ratio of asset value. Let us elaborate them.

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To secure your space, fax us at your attention to GPS 893-0826 or 893-0834

URBAN INSTITUTE OF REAL ESTATE

SUKHOTHAI Soup

FRESH Spring Rolls with peanut sauce

Try Thai cuisine

THIS WEEKEND'S LIMIT: TREAT DAD TO GOODY'S Xpress and delight him with a free Thai Iced Coffee for a minimum food purchase of P200.

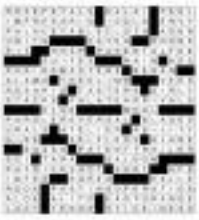
Thai Iced Coffee is a special drink that's not quite as thick as a shake but is tempered with an intriguing sweetness not found in typical coffee drinks.

At Goody's, enjoy authentic Thai cuisine and contemporary meals, starting with the must-try Fresh Spring Rolls with peanut sauce and the authentic Sukhothai Soup. Indulge in Thai Squid Barbecue and Pad Thai Chicken.

Desserts include the Famous Snow Mountain, a serving of cracked ice topped with sweet Thai syrup.

Goody's Xpress is at Robinsons Place Manila, Market! Market!, Glorietta 1, SM North Edsa, SM Sta. Mesa and Food Express Gateway Mall.

ANSWER TO SUNDAY CROSSWORD



New RUSH Fitness Water:

Just right for everyday fitness!

You don't have to be an athlete to need fitness and energy. Everyday life is filled with activities that require both!

Climbing stairs, running to a meeting or even tossing things to a friend are the workouts of everyday life. Without the right level of fitness, doing these ordinary physical activities could leave you tired and winded.

Get the right amount of everyday fitness and energy from all new *RUSH Fitness Water!*

Feel the RUSH! It's not as heavy as a sports drink.

New RUSH Fitness Water is a uniquely cool product. It's not for hardcore athletes because unlike any other specialized sports drink, *RUSH Fitness Water* is specifically made to help the average person recharge throughout the day to better meet the challenges of an active, stressful life.

It has less salt than ordinary sports drinks and contains electrolytes – such as sodium and potassium ions – to replenish those body fluids that you lose.

RUSH Fitness Water keeps energy and hydration in perfect balance, all day. So you stay in top physical and mental condition everyday!

Addicted to the RUSH! It's better than ordinary water.

Light flavored and non-carbonated, *RUSH Fitness Water* has a more appealing taste than plain water. With more electrolytes than purified water, it keeps the body better hydrated so it provides a more energizing refreshment!

It is also more easily absorbed than ordinary water due to its similar fluid concentration as blood.

Get a RUSH everyday!

RUSH Fitness Water is for people who live regular lives filled with activity. It's for the student who has to run to class then to an org meeting and back again. It's for the executive who has to dash from one meeting to another. It's for the regular Joe who has to run around town, pulling his nine weight to succeed in his own field.

RUSH Fitness Water is for national badminton champions, Kenneth and Kennic Asuncion on their days off the court. They know they still need to be fit as they go about their everyday chores and activities.

It's for anybody who has to be on top of his or her game of life everyday!

RUSH to your favorite store! It's only P15!

RUSH Fitness Water is a totally new and exciting way to quench everyday thirst. It's available in your favorite convenience stores and supermarkets at the very reasonable price of P15 for a 500 ml. bottle!

It comes in a light, resealable PET bottle so it's convenient to take with you throughout your active day.

For everyday fitness, take something that's just right . . . and feel the ***RUSH!***

ARROW offers a complete line of dress shirts, sports shirts, slacks, suits and accessories such neckties, belts, wallets, hankies, caps and socks. Visit its premier store at SM Mall of Asia.

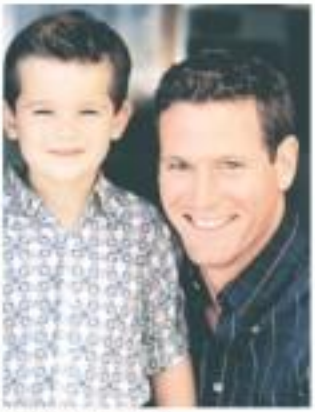
Father's Day promo

UNTIL TODAY, ARROW OFFERS A 10 percent discount on all its items and an additional 10-percent off for all its privilege card holders.

A prestigious American men's brand for over 150 years, Arrow is an esteemed fashion leader in men's apparel. This luxurious lifestyle brand is sold in over 90 countries, offering a complete line of dress shirts, sports shirts, slacks, suits, and accessories such neckties, belts, wallets, hankies, caps and socks.

In the Philippines, Corporate Apparel, Inc. is the exclusive licensee for Arrow. This company earned the Most Outstanding Men's Wear award from the Philippine Marketing Excellence Awards in 2005.

Check out any of Arrow's 22 boutiques, store's shop-in-shops and nine department store corners in major shopping malls and department stores in Metro Manila and in selected cities in the country. Also relish Arrow's premier store at SM Mall of Asia.



ARROW goes sporty casual for Dad.